

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2017

Members Present: William White, Julie Rupert, Dick Wagner, Mary Phillips, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Tim Sherry, Michelle Taschek, Eric Knepp, Roberta Sladky, Betty Chewning

Members Absent: Philip Bradbury, Julie Herfel, Dan Lauffer, Susan Derse Phillips, David Ahrens, Laurel Neverdahl, Marsha Rummel

Advisors Present: Fred Anderson, Janet Loewi, Paul Williams

Staff Present: Jeff Epping, Jake Immel, Patti Jorenby Joe Vande Slunt

I. **Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.**

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Sherry to approve the meeting minutes of February 21, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the agenda.

IV. **OLBRICH STAFF PRESENTATION**

a. What's Happening in the Outdoor Gardens? – Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture

Jeff Epping gave provided a slide presentation and highlighted the following:

- Staff are replacing the items lost in the fire on Christmas Day
- Jumping worm continues to be a concern. Outdoor gardens staff are continuing to work with UW and the DNR regarding treatments and best practices
- Reinders' Lighting symposium for landscape professions will take place May 1 & 2; the Gardens benefit by serving as a 'laboratory' for professional lighting installations
- GLEAM 2017 artists will be selected by the end of March
- A UW resident artist, Peter Krsko, will install an exhibit here with students in his seminar class. It will open on Gallery Night, May 5 and remain up through August
- The Rose Garden will undergo changes. The hybrid tea roses will be removed due to the impossibility to combat rose midge – even with consistent pesticide use; staff will showcase shrub roses that are a more sustainable landscape plant for Wisconsin
- Jeff's speaking engagements over the cold season have focused on the Gravel Gardens – there is considerable also in the print media about Olbrich's experience and success with the gravel garden installations.
- Katey Pratt was promoted to one of the fulltime horticulturist positions (open after Mark Shimasaki's and Christian Harper's retirements); recruitment for a second full time horticulturist and a .6 horticulturist (to replace Katey) is underway
- No mow turf will be installed along Atwood avenue between the sidewalk and the Garden in 2017

V. REPORTS

A. President's Report

President White circulated a newspaper article that highlighted a UW research scientist who used various plant specimens (some from Olbrich) to create the architecture for growing human skin tissue stem cells

a. Capital Campaign Update Please review the report in your packet. We hope to have 90% of fundraising done before go public in @ 2 months. Randy Wiesner, City Engineering – plans to come to the May meeting to give a building/architect update.

B. Financial Report

- a. February 2017 Financials** Ms. Phillips reviewed the financial report and noted that revenue is ahead of budget and expense is below budget for both February and YTD. Spring Show attendance is approximately 100 visitors over last year.
- b. Audit Update** Ms Phillips reported that she met with auditors this afternoon and everything is progressing nicely. There are two items remaining to be examined. A draft to review should arrive by the end of next week.
- c. Resolution** Ms. Phillips introduced a resolution regarding the capital campaign financing:

Whereas Olbrich Botanical Society agreed to match volunteer contributions up to \$250,000 to the Rooted and Growing Capital Campaign, and,

Whereas volunteer (including board members an cabinet members) contributions exceeded \$250,000, and,

Whereas Olbrich Botanical Society determined to make a contribution from the operating reserves to the capital campaign as part of its March 2014 financing plan,

Therefore be it resolved that Olbrich Botanical Society will transfer \$250,000 from the operating reserves to the Capital Campaign account, and,

Therefore it be further resolved that Olbrich Botanical Society will match gifts received up to a total of \$250,000 during the public phase of the campaign scheduled to begin this late Spring of 2017.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Sherry to approve the above resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Director's Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports and noted that attendance is already trending high for YTD – partially due to Orchid Quest which was held at the Gardens for the first time in February. Staff attended CRASE (Civilian Response for Active Shooter Events) training that was presented by the Madison Police Dept. We are offering the training to volunteers, staff and Board member – talk to Marty if you would like to attend a session.

Several board members commented about the Spring Show and the following motion was introduced:

A motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Taschek to commend the staff on their hard work and creativity in developing the Spring Flower Show of 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Development & Marketing Staff Update

Please review reports in packet.

E. Marketing & Public Relations Report

Please review reports in packet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.