

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2017

Members Present: Julie Rupert, Dick Wagner, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Tim Sherry, Michelle Taschek, Betty Chewning, Eric Knepp, Laurel Neverdahl, Roberta Sladky, Brad Hinkfuss

Members Absent: Bill White, Mary Phillips, Julie Herfel, Dan Lauffer, Susan Derse Phillips, David Ahrens

Advisors Present: Fred Anderson, Jt Covelli, Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, Dale Mathwich, Barb Tensfeldt

Staff Present: Patti Jorenby, Ashlyn Mehlhaff, Katy Plantenberg, Joe Vande Slunt, Interns: Valerie McGoldrick & Matt Olson

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Tascheck and seconded by Mr. Hess to approve the meeting minutes of July 18, 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**

Ms. Sladky introduced two Horticulture (outdoor garden) interns and asked them to tell a little about themselves and their experience working at Olbrich Gardens.

Valerie McGoldrick attends UW Platteville and is studying Environmental Horticulture and Crop Culture. She rotated through all of the gardens and enjoyed working with the different staff members. Matt Olson attends UW River Falls and is studying Horticulture. He worked in the outdoor gardens and the Children's Kitchen Garden. Both interns commented that their experience was a great opportunity for learning all aspects of working at a public garden – they were not just being asked to do menial labor. They also enjoyed learning about and supervising volunteers. They went on field trips to Chicago Botanic Garden, Allen Centennial Gardens, and Boerner Botanic Garden in Milwaukee. Interns also visited and learned from the Home Garden Tour.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Vice-President's Report

a. Capital Campaign Update – Ashlyn Mehlhaff reported that we have reached \$4.5 million and plan to be at \$5 million by year-end. There are some large asks still out and grant proposals to be written for 2018. The elected Board of Directors are at 100% participation – thank you.

The Circle Reception is Friday and 100 RSVP's have been received (compared to 70 last year). 60% of 150 active Circle Members have already contributed to the Capital Campaign. The

public appeal starting list is approximately 14,000. Ms. Mehlhaff expects 25% to be interested and 10% of those to make a gift.

Ms. Sladky noted that schematic design for the project has begun. A meeting with MSR is scheduled next week and another in early September. (Some of these meetings are held via Webex). The current greenhouse is 55% space-efficient (that much usable space for growing) and the new greenhouse is projected to be 70 – 75% space-efficient. Schematic design should be completed in early October along with cost estimations. Design development (when the details are determined) is next. detail part. Expect construction to begin mid to late summer of 2018 and be finished in 2019.

B. Financial Report

a. June 2017 Financials – Ms. Phillips could not attend meeting, so please review the included financial report. Ms. Sladky noted that we will start having one month delay on the financials reports, so that there is enough time for Mary and staff to review for accuracy. For example, the July financials will be presented at the September meeting (instead of at the August mtg).

C. Director's Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports. Marty Petillo wished to thank the Board members and Advisors who worked during the Blooming Butterfly event. We had over 25,000 visitors this year (18,000 last year). 377 membership transactions occurred, which is a new record.

A special celebration for volunteers with 20+ years of service, which includes some Board members and Advisors, is planned for September. The Home Garden Tour was successful with 780 attendees and the financial goal of \$14,000 in revenue was achieved. Twenty new memberships were processed during HGT.

The GLEAM exhibit is being installed right now. In the third, 2017, artists were selected who are known for working with light. It should be an impressive exhibit.

Interviews took place last week for the Conservatory Curator and an offer will be made after the meeting tonight.

D. Development and Marketing Staff Update

Joe Vande Slunt reported that we have two new Circle Members – Michelle Taschek family and Julie Rupert family.

E. Marketing & Public Relations Report

Please review staff reports.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.