

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**February 21, 2017**

**Members Present:** William White, Julie Rupert, Dick Wagner, Mary Phillips, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Julie Herfel, Tim Sherry, Michelle Taschek, David Ahrens, Laurel Neverdahl, Roberta Sladky, Betty Chewning

**Members Absent:** Dan Lauffer, Susan Derse Phillips, Eric Knepp, Marsha Rummel

**Advisors Present:** Jt Covelli, Emanuel Scarbrough, Paul Williams

**Staff Present:** Patti Jorenby, Katey Pratt, Erin Presley

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

President White introduced new Board members, Ms. Allgood and Mr. Bradbury.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Taschek and seconded by Mr. Hess to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2016. Correction to spelling of Philip Bradbury name in December packet materials – spell with one “l”. Motion carried unanimously with correction.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**IV. OLBRICH STAFF PRESENTATION**

**a. Spring Show 2017: Featuring Banquets of Blooms, by Katey Pratt and Erin Presley**

The title is “Bouquets & Banquets” and will include themes on a kitchen and four different dining scenarios. Staff have been using image boards, Pinterest photos, etc. to document include ideas and stay on the same page. A call to staff, volunteers and local vendors for items related to the theme has been well received. A great many useable items have been loaned. Staff is planning Spring & Holiday Shows 2 – 3 years in advance which will allow for more efficiency. Items can be ordered in advance and used for multiple show themes and then used in the Garden.

**V. REPORTS**

**A. President’s Report**

President White attended the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and noted it was well attended. Marty Petillo did a great job and President White suggests that if you are invited, you should attend and experience the event. He also attended and worked at Garden Expo and said it was a lot of fun and that he learned a lot.

**a. Capital Campaign Update** – Ms. Sladky distributed an updated handout showing current total of \$3,068,934. The committee would like to have \$4 million of the \$5 million needed before going public (in addition to the \$5 million from the City of Madison). The Board may vote to put up to \$1 million from reserve funds into the campaign. MSR was selected as the architect and a contract goes to Common Council at March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. More updates will come from Randy Wiesner, Engineering in the next month or 2.

President White thanked Mr. Sherry and Ms Derse Phillips for their continued work on the Capital Campaign.

**B. Financial Report****a. January 2017 Financials**

Ms. Phillips distributed a new financial handout which includes an update to the Gift Shop revenue. Overall, the income is up for January and expenses are down compared to budget, so the financials look favorable.

**b. Resolution**

Ms. Phillips introduced a resolution that some banks required in order to close accounts that are the result of an estate gift. The OBS Executive Committee recommends approval.

Whereas, Roberta Sladky, Olbrich Gardens Director, acts as the Executive Director of Olbrich Botanical Society, and,

Whereas the Executive Director is authorized by the Board of Directors of Olbrich Botanical Society to act as a fiscal agent for the organization, and

Whereas Ms. Sladky may receive funds on behalf of the organization, and

Whereas Ms. Sladky may provide banking details to have donor funds transferred directly to Olbrich Botanical Society's bank account,

Therefore be it resolved that donor gifts, legacy gifts, and other gifts may be received by Ms. Sladky on behalf of the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors.

A motion was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Sherry to approve the Resolution as stated. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Director's Report**

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports and noted record attendance of 300,396 for 2016. We couldn't do it without our great staff and volunteers. Orchid Quest took place at Olbrich Gardens in early February and it brought a LOT of traffic. Olbrich Gardens' display was highly regarded by the judges and earned several awards. The Bolz Conservatory exhibit of Maria Sibylla Merian's work in Suriname continues thru March 4<sup>th</sup>. Take some time to visit before it closes. Merian's contributions to science are being heralded around the world, including a symposium in her name in Amsterdam.

**D. Development & Marketing Staff Update**

Ms. Herfel invited Board members to attend and/or sponsor a table at Rhapsody in Bloom. They are changing things up this year with the theme is "Grand Central Gardens" focusing on New York City.

**E. Marketing & Public Relations Report**

Katy Plantenberg is back to work and should start submitting reports to the Board soon.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are no announcements.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.