

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2015

Members Present: Kevin Hess, Dick Wagner, Mary Phillips, Tim Sherry, Julie Herfel, Erin Ogden, Julie Rupert, Eric Knepp, Laurel Neverdahl, Marsha Rummel, Roberta Sladky, Betty Chewning

Members Absent: Bill White, Renee Boyce, Dan Lauffer, Susan Derse Phillips, Michelle Taschek, David Ahrens, Jeffrey Lewis

Advisors Present: Fred Anderson, Jt Covelli, Sandy Dolister, Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, Janet Loewi, Emanuel Scarbrough, Barb Tensfeldt

Staff Present: Jeff Epping, Patti Jorenby, Katy Morgan-Davies, Jane Nicholson, Nancy Vidlak

I. **President Hess called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.**

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Chewning to approve the meeting minutes of June 16, 2015. 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 New in the Outdoor Gardens – Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture

Mr. Epping reported that the growing season has been positive for the display of bulbs and flowering trees with ample rain at timely intervals. In mid-July, that appeared to be changing. A 3500 sq ft gravel garden was added to the entry of the main building in August of 2014. It is doing very well. Gravel Gardens located within the park system such as at Goodman Pool and Reindahl Park are doing well and would be perfect except for vandalism at Reindahl.

Chicagoland Gardening visited to photograph the Rose Garden Rain Garden which had some plantings added in 2014. The Capital Stone patio near the Respite Pavilion was completed last fall – utilizing stone from the Iowa State Capital. Furniture will be added to the Respite Pavilion yet this summer. *Know Maintenance* planting was added between the Morse and Lussier Terraces. Roy Diblik donated his time and about 100 perennials. Mr. Epping described the Landscape Lighting Camp held in June and described the progress for the GLEAM art installations which will occur in August.

Plantings to replace damage from the 2013-2014 polar vortex winter are nearly complete and will be completed this season.

V. **REPORTS**

A. President's Report

a. Capital Campaign Update

The "Case for Support" is close to being finalized. Staff and Board leadership are working to put together the Capital Campaign Cabinet. Board members will be invited to attend a Capital

Campaign Cabinet training. Mr. Sherry reported that they quiet phase of the campaign will launch by late August.

B. Financial Report

a. June 2015 Financials – Ms. Phillips reviewed the financial reports. Revenue is ahead of budget for June and YTD. Expenses were over budget for June, but okay for YTD. The net income for June was down, but YTD is ahead of budget. An adjusting entry has been made to the Gift Shop expense for approximately \$11,000 to correct the gift shop’s POS system that charged a ‘cost of goods’ amount for bagged leaf mulch sold.

b. File 2014 990 tax return

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Ms. Ogden to approve filing the 990 tax form. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Director’s Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports and reminded board members to submit recipes for the Olbrich volunteer cookbook. Marty Petillo provided a sign up sheet for possible volunteer work groups who might be interested in staffing a night of volunteer positions for GLEAM. Please contact Ms Petillo directly with any questions.

D. Development & Marketing Staff Update

Katy Morgan-Davies notes that getting new membership materials out has been taking longer than usual, due to staff shortage. We will be starting an automated process with American Printing that should help us get caught up and make the process quicker for the future. We hope to be caught up in the next month. The Spring Appeal is going out late, but going out this week.

E. Development Committee Report

Ms. Covelli reported working on “planned giving” events for the Fall and Spring. One session will be directed more toward millennials and one more toward older donors.

F. 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 4:50pm.