

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes DRAFT
May 16, 2017

Members Present: Bill White, Julie Rupert, Dick Wagner, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Tim Sherry, Michelle Taschek, Betty Chewing, Laurel Neverdahl, Roberta Sladky

Members Absent: Mary Phillips, Julie Herfel, Dan Lauffer, Susan Derse Phillips, David Ahrens, Eric Knepp, Marsha Rummel

Advisors Present: Jack Bolz, Jt Covelli, Dale Mathwich

Staff Present: Tom Fullmer, Jake Immel, Patti Jorenby, Ashlyn Mehlhaff, Jane Nicholson, Kim North, Katy Plantenberg, Katey Pratt, Dan Schuknecht, Samantha Yoder

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Bradbury and seconded by Ms. Taschek to approve the meeting minutes of April 25, 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. Introduction of new staff: Ms. Sladky introduced new staff that were present who shared a bit about themselves with the Board. **Tom Fullmer**, Marketing and Special Events Coordinator, is currently working on Rhapsody and is the contact for auction donation items; **Kim North**, Youth and Family Programs Manager is running Botany Explorer with a full session of 42 groups; **Katey Pratt**, Horticulturist for the Rose Garden and Event Garden, started at 60% and then went full time to replace Christian Harper; **Dan Schuknecht**, Horticulturist for the Thai Garden replaced Mark Shimasaki; **Samantha Yoder**, Horticulturist is 60% time and takes care of the Sunken Garden. Not present – **Sarah Ellis**, Youth & Family Programs Coordinator and Rachel Gabriel, Visitor Services Specialist, 60% time were not able to be present.

V. **REPORTS**

A. President's Report

President White asked members to observe a moment of silence with thoughts to Sandy Dolister (Advisor and OBSF Board Chair) on the loss of her husband, Jim Dolister, last week.

a. Capital Campaign

Mr. Wagner discussed the history of the financial plan to fund fund the Capital Campaign and shared the excerpt of the 3/18/14 OBS Board minutes that outlined a plan to not transfer bequests to the Foundation until the Capital Campaign is complete and utilizing the OBS fund balance to supplement the Capital Campaign fundraising. He reviewed the resolution as presented in the agenda regarding the estates of Sue Dauberman, Dorothea Haug, and Vera Lee. He reviewed the current resolution as presented in the agenda regarding estates of Sue Dauberman, Dorothea Haug and Vera Lee.

Whereas, the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors adopted a financing plan by resolution at the March 2014 meeting that specified reserving future bequests to help finance the upcoming Capital Campaign (which is attached to this resolution), and, whereas

Olbrich Botanical Society received a generous bequest of \$478,494.73 from Sue Ann Dauberman, and, whereas

Sue Ann Dauberman was an active volunteer at Olbrich Botanical Gardens from 2000 until her death in April of 2016, and, whereas

Sue Ann Dauberman was an avid gardener who loved plants from her house plants to her vegetable garden, and whereas

Sue Ann Dauberman was generous to Olbrich Gardens staff with her peanut brittle and her interest in the daily activities of the Gardens, and whereas

Sue Ann Dauberman was a member of the Michael B. Olbrich Legacy Society, and, whereas

Olbrich Botanical Society received a generous bequest of \$555,197.84 from Dorothea Haug who passed away December of 2016, and, whereas

Dorothea Haug specified that funds provided to Olbrich Botanical Gardens be used to purchase motorized wheel chairs for the elderly handicapped so they can visit the gardens without charge, and, whereas

That provision was satisfied in 2017, and, whereas

Mr. Mike Lee, Dorothea Haug's personal representative has authorized the placing of a memorial bench that will provide a place to sit in beautiful surroundings with the balance to be used for the betterment of projects at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and, whereas

Olbrich Botanical Society received a generous bequest of approximately \$2,000,000 from the estate of Vera Lee, and, whereas

Vera Lee was a member of the Michael B. Olbrich Legacy Society, and, whereas

Vera Lee's will designated that her gift be used: (1) to make the gardens more accessible to those whose ability to walk is impaired, (2) to expand the orchid exhibit and (3) to better the rose garden, and, whereas

OBS' Executive Committee has consulted OBS' Smith & Gesteland auditors, and Vera Lee's personal representative at US Bank with a plan to satisfy her designations, and, whereas

There is general agreement from all parties to designate a portion of Vera Lee's estate for the Tram, the Orchid House, an endowed Orchidist, and Rose

Garden enhancements,

Therefore be it resolved to honor Sue Ann Dauberman and her love of gardening, that her estate gift of \$478,494.73 be reserved for the Rooted and Growing Capital Campaign and that the floriculture production house be named in her honor, and,

Therefore be it further resolved that the remaining funds of \$547,877.84 from Dorothea Haug's estate gift be reserved for a memorial bench in the gardens with the balance for the Rooted and Growing Capital Campaign, and,

Therefore be it further resolved that \$700,000 of Vera Lee's estate gift be reserved for the Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign for the Orchid House and that the orchid house be named in honor of Vera Lee, and,

Therefore be it further resolved that with approximately 90% of Olbrich Botanical Society's share of the project costs has been raised, that the Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign will be announced to the public in June with the remainder of the funds to be raised during the public portion of the campaign.

Motion

A motion was made by Mr. Sherry and second by Mr. Hess to accept the resolution recommendations. Motion carried unanimously with exception of Michelle Taschek who abstained.

Ashlyn Mehlhaff noted that we have raised \$4.3 million when these bequests are included. There are approximately \$425,000 outstanding requests, plus a few with undisclosed amounts. There are plans to select a consultant in the next few weeks to assist with publicity to help with the public ask, to let people know why this project is needed, and to make sure that City officials know that we are close to reaching the campaign goal. The next newsletter will have information about the Capital Campaign and future estate planning.

Ms. Sladky reported that the architects have been working with the information provided and gathered during discussions with staff and there is another meeting tomorrow. There will be more updated information at the June meeting.

B. Financial Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed financial report and noted that Revenue is approximately \$14,000 ahead of budget compared to 2016 and YTD is \$48,000 ahead of budget. Expenses were under budget by \$14,000 and YTD under by \$79,000.

The Financial Report format has been changed and overall, the Board was happy with it.

Rhapsody in Bloom – Tom Fullmer reported there is new electronic process for the auction and the vendor hired will supply 4 staff onsite to assist with any problems or to help attendees place bids. There will be multiple entertainment areas throughout the Gardens, including caricature artist, “subway” performers, a graffiti artist, etc... Please get your silent auction items to Tom.

Mr. Mathwich mentioned that it might be good to “plant seeds” re: legacy gifts at Rhapsody to highlight people who have left bequests to the Gardens.

C. Director’s Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports.

D. Development and Marketing Staff Update

Ashlyn Mehlhaff distributed a new report (one column was missing from the one included in the packet). She notes they are discussing ways to help donors feel more involved in the Gardens, not just getting the appeals each year and are also working with Olbrich staff regarding using more “corporate group” volunteers for projects. It has been interesting that as they have asked companies for donations, many have requested ways for their staff to volunteer as part of their giving experience.

E. Marketing & Public Relations Report

Katy Plantenberg noted we are seeing a lot of publicity regarding the Peter Krsko art exhibit as the UW is publicizing, but it trickles down to us. She also distributed a report that was not included in the packet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.