

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019
DRAFT 2

Members Present: Julie Rupert, Mary Phillips, Bill White, Alnisa Allgood, Susan Goodwin, Kevin Hess, Erik Lincoln, Laura Peterson, Tim Sherry, Dick Wagner, Brad Hinkfuss, Angela Jenkins, Eric Knepp, Laurel Neverdahl, Roberta Sladky

Members Absent: Philip Bradbury, Renee Boyce, Susan Derse Phillips, Betty Chewing, Nancy Ragland

Advisors Present: Jack Bolz, Michelle Taschek

Staff Present: Jeff Epping, Patti Jorenby, Katy Plantenberg, Kai Skadahl, Hannah Tubbs

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Sherry and seconded by Ms. Goodwin to approve the meeting minutes of January 15, 2019. 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**

Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture – Olbrich Gardens Master Planning: Past, Present and Future

Jeff started with the Master Plan of 1992 and showed photos of improvements over the years:

- 1991 \$4.6 mil Bolz Conservatory & Garden Center
- 1992 \$153,000 Garden Development Campaign
- 1994 \$1 mil Garden for the Future Campaign
- 1997 \$1 mil Garver Land Bank Campaign
- 2002 \$4 mil Thai Sala and Garden
- 2005 \$2 mil Rose Garden Campaign
- 2019 \$12 mil Learning Center & Greenhouses

A Land Use Master Plan for Olbrich Park's approximately 100 was approved by the Parks Commission in 2007. As part of that process, Olbrich Botanical Society released a deed restriction for the 5-acre Garver property, in exchange for approximately 10 acres – to be restricted for Botanical Gardens – adjacent to the Thai Garden. Through public input meetings, held later, some areas of interest expressed were Fruit & Vegetable Demonstration Garden and a Children's Garden. The Land Use plan also identified three acres for a Garden Support/Service area. It is time to begin a new masterplan review of the existing Gardens as well as the Garden addition of 10 acres adjacent to the Thai Garden.

V. **REPORTS**

A. **President's Report**

- a. Capital Campaign Update – summary is in Board packet
- b. Project Update Written Report

Installation of helical piers for the Learning Center and Greenhouse continue working their way out from the innermost locations. Plumbing, Heating, Electrical, and Fire Protection trades continue to rough in new services for the Learning center. Steel structural components for the Learning Center are due to be delivered around 2/18.

B. **Financial Report**

Ms. Phillips reported the audit begins on Monday. December has not been fully closed out, but we are close to the revenue budget approximately \$21,000 to the good. Expense are slightly up also. Year to date it appears that there will be a net revenue gain of approximately \$90,000. These are unaudited numbers.

C. **Director's Report**

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports and noted that Gift Shop sales are down for January and that attendance was also down due to the poor weather conditions. The LOOK art exhibit in the Conservatory is open and the Member Preview was well attended. The exhibit will stay open until 7pm on Fridays. Ms. Sladky reported on the staff goals. The Board heard from Mr. Epping regarding the history of master planning for the Gardens and the outlook for the future. Marty Petillo began to address the staff's efforts at beginning to plan for an inclusive community at Olbrich Gardens. She addressed issues of kindness at the all-volunteer luncheon and leads a staff team of approximately ten to continue to move forward.

Mr. Knepp noted there are some neighborhood complaints regarding the Garden Maintenance area that will house leaf mulch, maintenance area and hoop houses. Parks is dealing with it and have a plan in place to mask the area with fencing and plantings.

D. **Development Report**

Please review staff reports in Board packet.

E. **Marketing & Public Relations Report**

Katy Plantenberg reviewed staff report.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

VII. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are no announcements.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.