

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY  
Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2022**

**Members Present:** Philip Bradbury, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Julie Rupert, Matt Cornwell, Susan Goodwin, Bethany Ordaz, Bill Patek, Juscha Robinson, Maurice Sheppard, Tim Sherry, Sandi Statz, Bill White, Betty Chewing, Liz Dannenbaum, Laurel Neverdahl, Tanya Zastrow

**Members Absent:** Laura Peterson, Julie Bernauer, Moira Harrington, Eric Knepp

**Advisors Present:** Jt Covelli, Kevin Hess, Barb Tensfeldt

**Staff Present:** Jake Immel, Lisa Laschinger (Assistant Parks Superintendent), Katy Nodolf, Kim North, Liz Parker, Kai Skadahl, Joe Vande Slunt

I. **The meeting called to order at 4:02 pm.**

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Secretary Boyce and seconded by Mr. White to approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

IV. **REPORTS**

**A. President's Report**

- a. **Notice of the 2023 OBS Board meeting schedule** – Ms. Zastrow reviewed the 2023 OBS Board meeting schedule. She noted that the January meeting would be virtual, the February meeting would be in person (for the Board to come in and see the Orchid Escape exhibit), and the rest would be in person. Vice President Allgood added that the winter meetings may be switched to virtual so Board members that are out of the state can attend.

b. **Nominations by Nominations Chair, Julie Rupert** –

Thank you to our outgoing Board Directors who have completed their terms:

**Tim Sherry**

**Bill White**

With Tim and Bill's departure, there are now two open seats for Directors. The Nominations Committee recommends we do not fill these seats until the strategic plan is set and work on the plan begins.

The Nominations Committee recommends the following Officers be elected for the calendar year 2023:

**President – Alnisa Allgood (from Vice President)**  
**Vice President – Susan Goodwin (NEW)**  
**Past President – Philip Bradbury (from President)**  
**Secretary – Maurice Sheppard (NEW)**  
**Treasurer – Laura Peterson**

The Nominations Committee thanks Julie Rupert, Past President, and Renee Boyce, Secretary, for their service on the Executive Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. White and seconded by Ms. Chewing to accept this slate of Officers. Motion carried unanimously.

Elect the following OBS members to serve a one-year term for the calendar year 2023 as non-voting Advisors to the Board of Directors:

- Fred Anderson**
- Jack Bolz**
- Jt Covelli**
- Julie Herfel**
- Kevin Hess**
- Jeff Levy**
- Dale Mathwich**
- Mary Phillips**
- Barbara Tensfeldt**
- Paul Williams**

The Nominations Committee thanks Dennis Birke, Sandy Dolister, and Dan Matson for their service as Advisors.

A motion was made by Vice President Allgood and seconded by Mr. White to accept this slate of Advisors. Motion carried unanimously.

In addition to the elected directors, the OBS Board has seven\* ex officio positions which are filled as follows:

- Madison Parks Superintendent – **Eric Knepp**
- Neighborhood Association Representative – **Betty Chewing**
- Olbrich Garden Club Representative - **Laurel Neverdahl**
- District 15 Alder Representative – **Liz Dannenbaum**
- Madison Board of Park Commissioners Representative – **Moira Harrington**
- Garden Director – **Tanya Zastrow**

\*Please note the Bylaws calls for a District 6 Alder Representative. District 6 no longer includes Olbrich Botanical Gardens. This is an area to amend when Bylaws are next updated.

- c. **Confirm OBS Foundation Election –**  
 Olbrich Botanical Society Foundation Board of Directors  
 Confirmation of Elections Held 12/15/2022  
 Election of Officers for 2023 (unanimously approved 12/15/2022)

Olbrich Botanical Society Foundation has elected its Officers and Directors for 2023. They are as follows.

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Re-elect as President           | <b>Sandy Dolister</b>    |
| Re-elect as Vice President      | <b>Timothy W. Sherry</b> |
| Re-elect as Secretary-Treasurer | <b>Dennis Birke</b>      |
| Elect as Director               | <b>Ann Casey</b>         |

The Nominations Committee thanks Phyllis Lovrien for her service on the OBS Foundation.

A motion was made by Secretary Boyce and seconded by Ms. Goodwin to confirm the OBS Foundation election. Motion carried unanimously.

In addition to the elected directors, the OBSF Board has four ex officio positions which will be filled as follows:

OBS Board President	<b>Alnisa Allgood</b>
OBS Board Past President	<b>Philip Bradbury</b>
OBS Board Treasurer	<b>Laura Peterson</b>
OBS Executive Director	<b>Tanya Zastrow</b>

d. **Resolutions honoring the service of Tim Sherry, Bill White, and Phyllis Lovrien –**

WHEREAS, Tim Sherry has supported the activities of Olbrich Botanical Society in numerous capacities and been a proponent and supporter of Olbrich Gardens throughout the Community, and

WHEREAS, Tim has provided more than 20 years of volunteer service to Olbrich Botanical Gardens, with more than 1,250 hours of service, and

WHEREAS, Tim has served many roles on the Boards of the Olbrich Botanical Society and Olbrich Foundation, including President of the Society Board of Directors, and the Chair of the Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign, the largest capital project in Madison Parks history, and

WHEREAS, Tim has been a generous donor to the Botanical Society, including sponsoring the Sherry Family Classroom in the Frautschi Family Learning Center, and

WHEREAS, Tim has provided outstanding financial counsel to both Boards, including an ability to analyze the budget and P&L worksheets with lightning speed, and

WHEREAS, the Olbrich Botanical Society and Foundation has continued to successfully support the vision and mission of Olbrich Botanical Society because of his service,

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors extends our sincere appreciation for Tim Sherry's dedication and generosity, and extends our best wishes for his continued wellbeing and happiness.

A motion was made by Ms. Statz and seconded President Bradbury to approve the resolution. The Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, Bill White has supported the activities of Olbrich Botanical Society in numerous capacities and been a proponent and supporter of Olbrich Gardens throughout the Community, and

WHEREAS, Bill has been a generous donor to the Botanical Society for 30 years, with loyal and dedicated financial support beginning in 1992, and

WHEREAS, Bill has provided 8 years of service to Olbrich Botanical Gardens, with more than 560 hours of service, and

WHEREAS, Bill has served as President of the Society Board of Directors, including for the groundbreaking of the Rooted & Growing Capital Campaign, to build new production greenhouses and Olbrich's first dedicated space for education, and

WHEREAS, Bill has provided outstanding legal counsel to the Society, especially during the Capital Campaign and development of the Cooperation and Coordination Agreement between the City of Madison and the Botanical Society, and

WHEREAS, the Olbrich Botanical Society has continued to successfully support the vision and mission of Olbrich Botanical Society because of his service,

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors extends our sincere appreciation for Bill White's dedication and generosity, and extends our best wishes for his continued wellbeing and happiness.

A motion was made by Vice President Allgood and seconded by Secretary Boyce to approve the resolution. The Motion carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, Phyllis Lovrien has supported the activities of Olbrich Botanical Society in numerous capacities and been a proponent and supporter of Olbrich Gardens throughout the Community, and

WHEREAS, Phyllis has provided outstanding investment counsel and guidance to the Olbrich Society Foundation Board, and

WHEREAS, Phyllis has faithfully and with honor, integrity and distinction served on the Olbrich Botanical Society Foundation since 2004 and as Secretary/Treasurer during her tenure,

WHEREAS, the Olbrich Society Foundation has benefited from her wisdom, investment knowledge and perspective, and

WHEREAS, Phyllis has also been a generous donor and underwriter of the OBS Volunteer luncheon for many years, and

WHEREAS, the Olbrich Botanical Society Foundation has continued to successfully support the vision and mission of Olbrich Botanical Society because of her service,

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Olbrich Society Foundation Board of Directors extends our sincere appreciation for the work done on behalf of the Foundation and the Gardens to Phyllis Lovrien, and to extend our best wishes for her continued well being and happiness in retirement.

We do sincerely hope to continue to see you at the Gardens Phyllis.

## **B. Financial Report**

- a. **October 2022 Financials** – Ms. Parker reviewed the Financial Reports. She highlighted that year to date, revenue is 29.7% over budget and 32.7% over last year's actual.
- b. **Presentation and Approval of the 2023 OBS Operating Budget** – Ms. Zastrow and Mr. Vande Slunt reviewed the *2023 OBS Budget Development* presentation that was sent to the Board before the meeting. When going over the 2023 budget process, they explained how the Olbrich public-private partnership was funded. Mr. Vande Slunt highlighted the 2023 OBS budget priorities and goals which included the following: cost of living increase for staff; maintaining current benefits for staff; anticipating a 5% increase in health insurance premiums; increasing the LTE positions starting wage to \$17/hr.; creating a Guest Experience department; investing more into technology and integrating the database and payment

processing systems; new funding for professional development; and maintaining funding for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. He reviewed the budget rationale for every department and explained how the 2023 income goals better reflected Olbrich’s current situation, based off of revenues being above budget in 2021, and similar results anticipated in 2022.

There was discussion about how the operating budget would be presented to the Board in the future.

A motion was made by Ms. Goodwin and seconded by Ms. Statz to approve the 2023 OBS Operating Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Director’s Report**

Ms. Zastrow reported that the final Capital Project payment from OBS was delivered to the City of Madison earlier in the week. She noted that Volunteer Services Manager, Marty Petillo’s, retirement celebration would be taking place on January 18 from 10 am – noon. She shared that Madison Parks staff moved office locations to the Olin Park Facility, and Olbrich’s Jeff Epping and Colten Blackburn would be helping with landscaping and interior plants. Ms. Zastrow thanked outgoing OBS Board President Phil Bradbury for his service to the Board and for everything he had done for Olbrich.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**  
There was no new business.

VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
There were no new announcements.

VII. **ADJOURNED**  
The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

