

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2017**

**Members Present:** Bill White, Julie Rupert, Dick Wagner, Mary Phillips, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood, Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Julie Herfel, Tim Sherry, Michelle Taschek, Nancy Ragland, Angela Jenkins, Betty Chewning, Laurel Neverdahl, Roberta Sladky, Brad Hinkfuss

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

**Advisors Present:** Janet Loewi, Barb Tensfeldt, Paul Williams

**Guests Present:** Randy Wiesner, Architect 3 City Engineering; Amanda Vaith, PR person for Capital Campaign

**Staff Present:** Patti Jorenby, Jane Nicholson

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Ms. Neverdahl to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 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. REPORTS**

**A. President's Report**

a. Project 1 Update – Randy Wiesner, Architect 3 City Engineering

Randy noted that project architects recently completed the schematic design and showed the masterplan review sketches with the plant show hall and education center flipped which was previewed at the June public meeting. The education center will connect to the main lobby for easier access to the indoor and outdoor gardens. The plan includes a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office and work area. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor includes three classrooms with folding walls that open into a larger space. An outdoor education classroom is attached on the east end. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will have seven workstations for staff/interns/volunteers and a small conference room. Randy showed renderings of the Education building from different outdoor vantage points and a virtual tour of the indoor space.

Mr. Wiesner also showed a plan of the greenhouse. It will have rolling benches which will add more bench space without adding more square footage.

There was a question regarding sustainability. Mr. Wiesner noted the project is currently rated at the higher levels of LEED Silver now and he hopes that it will reach LEED gold when the plans are completed. Next meeting is likely on October 18<sup>th</sup> with better renderings and a public meeting afterwards. The Oct 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting will be cancelled so that board members can plan to attend the presentation on October 18. More information will be provided soon.

- b. Capital Campaign Update – President White attended a Common Council meeting to urge them to keep the funding for the Capital Campaign in the 2018 budget. \$4.5 million has been raised, and is now in the public phase. Mr. Sherry noted that he is working with the bank regarding the safeguarding of funds while maximizing any interest; when the bills will be due, etcetera. There will be answers in the next two months.
- c. Intro of New Board Members – Angela Jenkins is the designee for Alder Ahrens. Nancy Ragland is the designee for the President of the Board of Park Commissioners.
- d. Know Your Madisonian – Ms. Sladky was the subject of a State Journal article, which brings great attention to the gardens and the Capital Campaign.

### **C. Nomination Report**

- a. A motion was made by Mr. Hess to approve the nomination of Erik Lincoln to the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors. Motion approved unanimously.

### **B. Financial Report**

- a. July 2017 Financials  
Ms. Phillips noted that Revenue is + \$26,000 to budget although Development is lagging behind a bit, mainly due to timing issues. Special Events attendance is up and therefore revenue is doing well. Expenses are less than budgeted and we received some grants to pay the interns.
- b. Approval to file 990  
A motion was made by Mr. Sherry and seconded by Ms. Rupert to approve filing the 2016 OBS 990 Tax Return. Motion approved unanimously.

### **D. Director's Report**

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports. An article was circulated regarding the philanthropy of Robert & Elizabeth Erickson that was published in the *East Side News*. Attendance continues to be ahead of last year. Prairie drop seed planting is taking place between the Sunken Garden and the sidewalk on Atwood Ave. The new Bolz Conservatory Curator, Colten Blackburn, started yesterday and will come to a future Board meeting. The volunteer potluck is on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6pm and you are welcome to attend. The Growing Gifts Gift Shop has been ahead of goal every month of 2017.

Mr. Williams related that he received the most recent newsletter and wished to thank staff for all of their hard work. He enjoys reading it and noted the improvements that have been made over the last few issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Allgood to recognize the newsletter staff and all the good things they are doing to improve the newsletter. Motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Development & Marketing Staff Update**

Please review staff reports.

**F. Marketing & Public Relations Report**

Please review staff reports.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Thai Fest will take place on Sunday, 11am – 4pm and is being funded by the Chicago Thai Consulate General and will be free to the public.

CRACKLE sold out in its 1<sup>st</sup> week. If the weather is good, 250 additional tickets will be sold at the door.

GLEAM is on-going and continues to have good attendance.

Holiday Train Show will have a “Wild West” theme

October Board mtg is cancelled for 17<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the donor open house and/or public meeting that will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow regarding the actual time of the meetings on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.