

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2011**

Members Present: Janet Loewi, Dick Wagner, Dan Matson, Susan Davis Canty, Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, Mark McFadden, Laurel Neverdahl, Tricia Perkins, Jerry Rekowski, Anne Rodgers-Rhyme, Marsha Rummel, Emanuel Scarbrough, Susan Stein (4:45pm)

Members Absent: Tim Sherry, Jennifer Curliss, Fred Anderson, Kevin Briski, Erin Ogden, Larry Palm

Advisors Present: Jack Bolz, Jt Covelli, Mary Beth Davis, Shirley Homburg, Jeff Levy, Dale Mathwich

Staff Present: Connie Beam, Patti Jorenby, Nancy Vidlak

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Ogren Erickson and seconded by Mr. Scarbrough to approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2011. 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**

1. President Loewi thanked the Board members who have completed their service – Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, Jerry Rekowski and Anne Rodgers-Rhyme. Each received a commemorative framed photo of the Gardens.

2. Mr. Wagner gave a brief overview of the Ad Hoc Committee on Space Needs for the 21st Century report that was distributed and discussed last month. Since that time, President Loewi and Mr. Wagner met with Arlan Kay of Architectural Network, Inc to further evaluate the Garver feed mill regarding its potential as extra space for the Gardens storage needs. Mr. Kay's opinion was that the two story areas were in the best shape and may be suitable if those areas are stabilized. The rough estimate is @ \$2.2 million to do that.

Mr. Wagner distributed the following resolution:

Whereas the Olbrich Botanical Gardens facilities were designed for an annual visitor-ship of 100,000 and annual Garden visitor-ship now exceeds 250,000, and

Whereas a Committee of Olbrich Gardens professional staff and Botanical Society volunteer members have studied space needs and have defined a new visitors center and education facility adjacent to the current Botanical Center as a prime requirement to support present and future operations, and

Whereas, to develop these concepts further, professional design services are required to develop conceptual plans and estimates, and

Whereas the city's recent study issued on the Garver building potential with complete or partial demolition raises questions about storage space and Garden Support Facility needs of the Olbrich Botanical Gardens, and the city study recommends a consultant to refine estimates for an alternative to be chosen, and

Whereas the ongoing lack of decision on Garver's future and the current vandalism has stymied both the neighborhood's enjoyment and use of lands north of Garver for low impact recreational purposes and the overall planning for garden facilities, and

Whereas Olbrich Botanical Gardens are operated as a partnership with both the City of Madison and the Olbrich Botanical Society supporting the gardens,

Now therefore, the Olbrich Botanical Society requests the City of Madison through the Parks Commission to enter into a partnership for the services of design consultants to prepare facilities plans and concepts for Olbrich Gardens to address space needs.

The plans shall explore the new space required for visitor services including meeting current accessibility standards, new education facilities and garden support spaces. The new space should be designed at the conceptual stage for a very green building that can relate to sustainability principles used in the gardens. The plan shall consider the options of using the Garver Core area with minimal work, not restoration but stabilization, as a Garden Support Facility with storage and a maintenance shop or a newly built Garden Support Facility. The Olbrich Botanical Society offers to financially share in splitting cost of the Facilities Design Plan.

Mr. Wagner expressed hope to have more discussion at the January meeting. Mr. Wagner will be presenting the Ad Hoc Committee on Space Needs for the 21st Century report at the Park Commission meeting tomorrow night.

B. Financial Report

Ms. Sladky distributed a corrected copy of the November 2011 Budget Summary. The 2012 OBS Budget was discussed and noted a 0.09% increase in expense and revenue. Changes were made that more accurately show expenses and revenues and expenses in the correct departments. Most of the 0.09 increase is due to moving the Tram expense and projected revenue into the operating budget. (Previously the tram was funded from a donor-designated fund.)

A motion was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Ms. Perkins to approve the 2012 OBS Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Director's Report

Ms. Sladky suggests Board members read the staff reports and reviewed some highlights.

D. Education Report

Ms. Sladky reports that the last Fall class took place last Friday. The January – May 2012 education catalog was mailed this week.

E. Development Report

Ms. Stein reports that a good December return of donations will likely help us meet budget goals for the year. Train Show attendance has been high which might be due to the favorable weather.

Membership Report: Mr. McFadden notes we currently have over 9000 individual members and more members are joining at the higher levels.

F. Marketing & Public Relations

Ms. Covell reports on-going work on the Facebook page and hope that it is up and running by year end. Sponsorships are going well – we are halfway to goal for the Home Garden Tour and have 16 of 28 sponsors for Rhapsody in Bloom.

V. **NOMINATIONS**

Mr. Matson reviewed the following nominations for the OBS Board of Directors:

- A. Elect Kevin Hess to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- B. Elect Carolyn Gilb to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- C. Elect Julie Herfel to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- D. Elect R. Richard Wagner to a second three-year term on the Board of Directors
- E. Elect Tricia Perkins to a second three-year term on the Board of Directors
- F. Elect Fred Anderson to a second three-year term on the Board of Directors.
- G. Elect the following Board members to serve as officers for the 2012 calendar year:
 - a. President – Janet Loewi
 - b. Vice President – Tim Sherry
 - c. Secretary – R. Richard Wagner
 - d. Treasurer – Jennifer Curliss
 - e. Dan Matson to serve as Past President

A motion was made by Ms. Rodgers Rhyme and seconded by Ms. Davis Canty to approve the nomination items A thru F. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Ogren Erickson and seconded by Mr. Rekowski to approve the item G, a-e, officers for the OBS Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. **NOMINATIONS – continued**

Mr. Matson reviewed the following nominations for the OBS Advisors to the Board of Directors:

Elect the following OBS members to serve a one-year term for the calendar year 2012 as non-voting Advisors to the Board of Directors.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Dennis Birke | h. Shirley Homburg |
| b. Jack Bolz | i. Jeff Levy |
| c. JT Covelli | j. Dale Mathwich |
| d. Mary Beth Davis | k. Jerry Minnich |
| e. Sandy Dollister | l. Anne Rodgers-Rhyme |
| f. Elizabeth Ogren-Erickson | m. Barbara Tensfeldt |
| g. Edith Lawrence-Hilliard | n. Paul Williams |

A motion was made by Mr. McFadden and seconded by Ms. Rodgers Rhyme to approve the nominations to the OBS Advisors to the Board of Directors. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. **OBS FOUNDATION REPORT**

Ms. Davis submits the officers elected to the OBS Foundation Board at their November meeting and requests approval.

Confirmation of the Olbrich Botanical Society Foundation elections held November 8, 2011.

President	Mary Beth Davis
Vice-President	Sandy Dollister
Secretary/Treasurer	Tim Sherry
Director	Jack Bolz

A motion was made by Mr. Matson and seconded by Ms. Rodgers Rhyme to confirm the elections. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Davis reviewed the OBS Foundation report and the 2012 distribution.

VIII. **OBS PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO CONNIE BEAM**

Ms. Sladky introduced the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Connie Beam has faithfully served as a Director of Development and Marketing for Olbrich Botanical Society since March of 2003, and,
WHEREAS, Connie Beam successfully completed the Rose Garden Campaign, and,
WHEREAS, Connie Beam has helped the OBS operating budget grow to \$1.495 million, and,
WHEREAS, Connie Beam led the celebration of the Bolz Conservatory's 20th Anniversary to a great success in 2011, and
WHEREAS, Connie Beam has continued to successfully support the vision and mission of Olbrich Botanical Society because of her service, and
WHEREAS, Connie Beam has announced that she will leave her position of Director of Development and Marketing effective December 30, 2011,
NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Olbrich Botanical Society Board of Directors extends sincere gratitude to Connie Beam for her service, and wishes her success in the future.

A motion was made by Ms. Stein and seconded by Mr. Scarbrough to approve the resolution as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

X. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are no announcements.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm. All are invited to the Conservatory to enjoy the evening lighting.