

**OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**September 18, 2018**

**Members Present:** Bill White, Dick Wagner, Kevin Hess, Alnisa Allgood Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Susan Derse Phillips, Tim Sherry, Angela Jenkins, Laurel Neverdahl, Nancy Ragland, Roberta Sladky

**Members Absent:** Julie Rupert, Mary Phillips, Dan Lauffer, Erik Lincoln, Michelle Taschek, Betty Chewning, Brad Hinkfuss, Eric Knepp

**Advisors Present:** Jack Bolz, Jt Covelli, Dale Mathwich, Elizabeth Ogren Erickson, Barb Tensfeldt, Paul Williams

**Staff Present:** Jeff Epping, Jake Immel, Patti Jorenby, Katy Plantenberg, Rylee Schuchardt, Kai Skadahl, Elizabeth Spry, Hannah Tubbs, Joe Vande Slunt. Lisa Laschinger – Assistant Superintendent, Madison Parks

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

II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Hess and seconded by Mr. Wagner to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2018. 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. What's Happening in the Outdoor Gardens – Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture**

Flooding – Mr. Epping reminded Board members that this isn't the first time we have had flooding and staff keep potential flooding in mind when plants are selected for the creek shore. This flooding was unusual because of the time of year -- we usually get flooding in spring and it doesn't last very long. This fall flooding with a long duration could prove more damaging. The Discovery Dock was rebuilt this year and has been underwater, but should be OK.

Moonlight Meadow (behind the Event Garden) – has been transformed into a flowering meadow. Staff have spotted snakes, mink, and other wildlife in that new area.

Jumping Worms are still here. Staff have treated some perennial areas with an organic fertilizer product that worked within hours on the worms by killing them. The DNR continues to do studies of long-term effects of some treatments that seem to be effective.

V. **REPORTS**

**A. President's Report**

**a.** Capital Campaign Update – Joe Vande Slunt noted that groundbreaking took place last week and went well. The Frautschi Family Learning Center was announced at the event.

**b.** Project Update – Plant material was moved offsite. We won't have poinsettias, pansies, or primulas this winter season to lack of growing areas. Joe Daniels Construction is moving

onsite, working on removing the Greenhouse, stone, etc... They will start stripping and removing topsoil to an offsite location next week. Two time-lapse cameras will be installed – one for the Greenhouse and one for the Learning Center.

## **B. Financial Report**

### **a. July Financials**

Ms. Sladky reviewed the updated financial report (sent via email and distributed at meeting). Financials are close to budget. Blooming Butterflies was very successful in terms of revenue and attendance. Tax Form 990 is not quite ready due to the company merger, but should have it at the October meeting.

## **C. Director's Report**

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports. Attendance is ahead, but notes part of that is due to our extended Lobby hours – changed to 8pm and visitors are counted during that time. Cindy Cary retired in August (has been employed since 2001). The Conservatory staff reviewed all the positions, made changes and hope to fill her position shortly. The 2019 Home Garden Tour will be in Stoughton. There will be two CRACKLE events – Sept 28 and Oct 5. A group of approximately 25 staff from Green Bay Botanic Garden visited Olbrich – took a tour then met and had lunch with their counterparts here at Olbrich. Everyone thought it was a great exchange of information.

## **D. Development Report**

Joe Vande Slunt reviewed the report included in the Board packet.

## **E. Marketing & Public Relations Report**

Katy Plantenberg reviewed the report included in the Board packet and noted that we are getting great coverage for GLEAM.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

There is no new business.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There are no announcements.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.