

OLBRICH BOTANICAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2018

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

Members Absent: Mary Phillips, Renee Boyce, Philip Bradbury, Julie Herfel, Dan Lauffer, Michelle Taschek, Betty Chewning

Advisors Present: Fred Anderson, Janet Loewi

Guest Present: Randy Wiesner, Architect 3 City Engineering

Staff Present: Patti Jorenby, Kai Skadahl, Joe Vande Slunt

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. Sherry to approve the meeting minutes of December 19, 2017. It was noted that Erin Ogden should be added as an Advisor per the December meeting Advisor election. Motion carried unanimously with the change.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public who wished to comment on items not on the agenda.

IV. PROJECT DESIGN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Randy Wiesner, Architect 3 with City Engineering noted that three of the four design phases have been completed. City staff is currently reviewing the design development phases and will make comments back to MSR, the architectural firm. Mr. Wiesner projected that the bid documents will go out before the end of May. He is preparing for a ground-breaking in early September and expects that construction will take approximately one year.

Mr. Wiesner went over design specifics, changes made, in the project since he last presented at a board meeting. The greenhouse is approximately the same physical size, but movable benching creates more usable space.

Sustainability remains a high priority and currently looking at how to capture roof water – it is cleaner than pavement runoff storm water and could be used for irrigation of the greenhouse and conservatory. This would result in the current reverse osmosis system serving as backup for the rainwater. Hope to use less RO, which would save money and the rainwater is better for the plants. A graph of predicted energy use shows that the project would use approximately half of what the current building code requires as a starting point. City ordinances require new buildings to have a LEED level of Silver.

V. REPORTS

A. President's Report

President White noted that Garver Feed Mill is under construction and that there is limited access to that area due to construction activity. We hope to hear soon about a groundbreaking date for the new storage facility.

- a. **Capital Campaign Update** – Ms. Sladky notes we are at \$4.7 million and are in process of verifying recognition/naming rights obligations as we are finishing design of the space. Staff are following up on verbal pledges that have not been received to date.
- b. **Olbrich Botanical Gardens Hours Change** – Ms. Sladky reviewed the proposed hour's changes.

A motion was made by Ms. Derse Phillips and seconded by Mr. Hess to recommend to the Park Commission that Olbrich Botanical Garden's hours be changed as presented in the agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Financial Report

- a. **November 2017 Financials** – Ms. Sladky asked members to review financial reports and noted that the bottom line looks good. December is usually a strong month and YTD memorials are considerably over budget.

C. Director's Report

Ms. Sladky reviewed staff reports and noted that attendance is up 25,000 over 2016 to 325,530. (The attendance report was provided at the meeting.) Invitations to the Volunteer Recognition event have been mailed. Olbrich has 353 volunteers who gave over 25 hours of service in 2017 – WOW. The retention rate is 88%, which is fantastic. Gift Shop revenue was \$39,000 over budget.

D. Development & Marketing Staff Update

Please review staff reports.

E. Marketing & Public Relations Report

Please review staff reports.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There are no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.