

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Kris Roby, Julie Miller, Kai Battenberg, Frank Clarke, Kat Clancy, Yvonne Barkley. Via Zoom: Nancy Zabriskie.

Guests: Craig Carson, Director of Grounds

Call to order: 5:04pm

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024 meeting. Motion passed.

Transition (Horticulturalist/Superintendent Position)

Erik asked Craig for an update on the search process. Craig reported that the position has been submitted to Human Resources and hopefully will be approved soon. The position will be advertised on Job Express, the job listing site of APPA (formerly the Association of Physical Plant Administrators). It was recommended that the position also be advertised on sites such as the American Public Gardens Association and LinkedIn. Erik summarized the meeting he and Yvonne recently had with Rusty and Craig. One of the good ideas Rusty presented at the meeting was for the Board to host a meet and greet with the candidates for the position. Additional search committee meetings will be held soon.

Erik also noted that in December, Paul requested Board approval for spending \$12,000 in donor funds to help cover temporary help costs. Funds would be used to employ Lucy Falcy from January 2 through March 18, 2025 to help cover Paul's reduced hours and to work on correcting the 416 outdated labels and signs with incorrect botanical family names. Funds also would be used to reimburse the Facilities maintenance budget for extra hours that Zachariah Green worked during the fall. The Board approved this request by an email vote. Erik emailed Craig Carson on December 27 and reported details of the Board's vote of approval for Paul's request.

Arbor Notes

Kudos to Yvonne and all the contributors to the recent edition of *Arbor Notes* for such an excellent job!

Annual Meeting

Erik suggested that we discuss Board openings at our next monthly meeting. Kat will be moving off the Board in April and Erik asked for suggestions for recruiting new Board members. Erik had checked with Paul about the option of celebrating Paul's upcoming

retirement at the Annual Meeting. Paul offered to present a retrospective slide show with Arboretum highlights from the past 25 years. Kat will check with Jenny at the 1912 Center about options for serving wine and beer at the meeting. It was also suggested we serve hearty hors d'oeuvres at the celebration. Yvonne recommended that we send out postcard invitations to the Annual Meeting.

Plant Sale

Paul reported that Lucy has been working on digging and dividing plants from the Arboretum for the plant sale. They are working on a tentative plan for the annual bed and will soon be ready to place an order for plants.

Bukvich Concert Site Project

All agreed that this has been a wonderful project with great planning on Paul's part. Kenton Bird invited Paul to lead an Arboretum tour for the Renfrew Colloquium in May which would end with a dedication of the new concert site. Kris reported that more than \$11,250 has been collected in donations for this project so far. A recommendation was made to use part of the proceeds from this year's plant sale to complete the concert project funding. Kat suggested that the poster for the plant sale could feature the new concert site.

Strategic Planning

Erik recommended that the Board focus on strategic planning just for the Arboretum Associates at this point, and hold off on planning for the Arboretum in general until the new person has been hired. He suggested we focus on the role and expectations of the Arboretum Associates, and the things that we can control. We could address our role in issues such as outreach, donor cultivation and fundraising. Yvonne suggested it would be helpful to clarify our definitions of goals and objectives. Kai offered to share information he received at a recent strategic planning training session. He will distill this information and send it to Paul who will distribute it via Drop Box. Julie suggested we decide on our planning process after we get these definitions.

Arboreta Updates

Paul has decided to hold off on Garden Conservancy membership for now, but will keep it in mind. He was pleased with a recent rise in donations to the Arboretum. Paul presented a slideshow of recent projects, including dealing with wind damage to a large Ponderosa Pine, the loss of additional Scots Pines due to the Pine nematode, a bare root salvage project of a large Japanese tree lilac on campus, and several interesting plants he discovered at the Parker Farm that may be good additions to the Arboretum.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 10, 2025 at the UI Herbarium in the Mines Building.