

**UI Arboretum Associates meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024
UI Facilities, Jack's Creek Conference Room**

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

Absent: Frank Clarke

Call to Order: 5:09 pm

Approval of minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2024, meeting. Motion passed.

Transition

Paul's Planned Phased Retirement has been approved. He started half time on Monday, November 25th, 2024.

Zachariah Green has accepted a position in Maine and will be leaving in December. The board discussed a gift for him and his wife, Lillyanna, as thanks for all they have done for the Arboretum. Lillyanna has agreed to continue maintaining our Instagram page for now, with help from people who will send her current pictures of the Arboretum for her to use on the feed. We will need to have a new volunteer willing to take over our Instagram page. The Board motioned to get a gift card for them. Motion was approved.

No news about the search for the Horticulturist's position.

Arbor Notes

Yvonne heard back from Creative Services just before the beginning of the meeting. Arbor Notes is in the final phase of production at the printer and should arrive at the UI Mailroom by the end of the week.

Plant Sale

No plants have been ordered yet. Paul will begin looking at what is available and start ordering plants for the sale in May soon.

Bukvich Concert Site Project

We have collected \$9,400 towards this project, with additional fund raising continuing. The project started today (12/9/24) and should be finished by Wednesday. The engraving will have to wait until spring to be done.

New Business

The Board had a long discussion about Specific Gifts and Endowments. Paul explained the origins of the various gifts and described the status of each associated project. Most of the projects have been completed.

The Board recommended that leftover Gift funds from completed projects be consolidated with portions distributed to the Arboretum Associates Centennial Endowment, the Arboretum Associates general account, and the Arboretum Maintenance and Improvement account.

Strategic planning was discussed. Examples of past plans and a draft compiled by Yvonne from information gleaned from the website and various Arboretum documents were distributed to all to read at home. Thoughts and decisions on developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Arboretum with the Arboretum Associates support will be discussed at the January meeting.

Arboreta Updates

Memberships in two organizations are due

- American Public Garden Association - \$175
- American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Network - \$200

The Board made a motion, which was approved, to pay membership dues to both organizations.

Paul currently sends out the membership cards to the AHS Reciprocal Garden Network to new members each week. He also sends hand-written thank-you cards to every new donor at the end of each month. It is not clear who will assume these duties.

BG Database

We use the BG Database to record all the information about every plant in the Arboretum. Over the years, 17 plant families in the database have changed names. This is common in horticultural nomenclature as new plant discoveries are made and plant relationships are refined using new technology such as genetic testing. The Arboretum is a scientific collection of living plants and signage is an important part of maintaining accreditation.

Each plant has two signs – one an accession label, which we do in-house at a cost of \$5 per label; and the other is a label that includes the full scientific name and common name of the plant. These need to be done out-of-house and cost \$15 per label.

At this time, there are 415 living woody plants that need new labels. An approximate 40 to 60 hours of labor will be needed to complete this task – someone to print and build the accession labels, send the appropriate information to the printer for the other labels, and someone to go out, find each plant and replace both labels. A total cost of approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 is needed for this task.

A discussion ensued as to who has the skill set to complete this task and how we would pay for it. No decisions were made at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.