

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2024

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Kris Roby, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Kat Clancy, Lucy Falcy, Nancy Zabriskie

Absent: Frank Clarke

Guest: Craig Carson

Paul introduced Craig Carson, the new Director of Grounds for UI Facilities.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2024 meeting. Motion passed.

Transition

Paul announced that he no longer wants to be in charge as of next year. He is willing to continue in some role. Craig noted that he will do all he can to keep the Arboretum moving in a positive direction and will work on options for Paul to stay on in a mentoring role. The Board will do whatever we can to help with this transition process and support Paul in whatever he needs. Yvonne suggested that it would be helpful to work on a strategic plan while Paul's here, gathering information from the By-laws, Constitution, and other existing documents. Lucy noted that a facilitator may be available to help with the strategic plan process. Paul noted that the ultimate question is how does the Arboretum move beyond being a one-man show. We need to work on getting funding for more positions. Erik reported that he had met with Jen Root, Chief Development Officer at the UI Foundation. They discussed opportunities for higher level support. Jen is willing to work with us at some level. The University needs to better recognize the value of the Arboretum.

Financial Report – Budget Review

Paul distributed a list of all the funds that are run through the UI Foundation and explained which funds could be potentially used for salaries and other needs. He highlighted the funds that the Arboretum Associates control and noted that some endowments have restrictions. He noted that we have significant resources available to spend strategically as needed.

Plant Sale

The plant sale on May 18 was successful and raised close to \$10,000.

Summer Concert

The concert on July 8 was great with a large turnout. Three hundred programs were printed and we ran out! Next year it would be helpful to also offer a QR code for the programs.

Fall Crawl

It was decided to put this event on hiatus this year.

ArborNotes

Yvonne will contact Creative Services soon about scheduling the next issue with delivery planned for the first week in December. Yvonne reviewed potential content for the new issue. Lucy offered to write an article about Paul. Kat will contribute photos of Plein Air painting in the Arboretum. Julie volunteered to work on an article about the annual meeting. Erik will check with Jan about an article on the plant sale. Dates for next year's events will be finalized at our next meeting. Tentative dates for the annual meeting include April 8 or 9 and the concert may be on July 14. Kris will check with Dan Bukvich regarding next summer's concert. Julie mentioned a potential speaker for the annual meeting. Yvonne will work on a timeline for the next issue.

New Business

Board Member Terms and New Board Member Recruitment

Erik distributed a spreadsheet with the prior and new board member term limits. Nancy Z. noted that she will be away this year, but is willing to attend meetings via Zoom.

Erik noted the need to recruit two additional board members. Paul suggested Kai Battenberg, the new Collections Manager at the UI's Stillinger Herbarium. He will ask Kai to submit a letter of interest and attend the next board meeting. Other names were put forward. Kris will contact another potential candidate and report back.

Arboreta Updates

Paul was approached with a request for a memorial bench to honor Dan Bukvich's wife. Paul proposed a new project in her honor involving the site of the summer concerts. To make the concert site more accessible he proposed adding rock walls along the slope and two basalt benches at the base of the slope. Paul discussed this proposed project with Kenton Bird and Dan Bukvich and both liked the idea. Dan has a quote that his wife collected that may be appropriate to engrave on one of the benches. Kris will discuss the project with Kenton and others. Paul contacted the rock company and received a quote of \$20,000. Outside funds are expected to come in for this project at a later date. To get the ball rolling Kat moved and Kris seconded a motion for the Arboretum Associates to provide funding up front. Motion passed.

Paul presented a slideshow of recent projects. Highlights included: progress on installing the new signs, a meeting to replace the maps at the kiosks and golf course, hardy cacti gardens, removal of dead Western white pines and giant sequoia, and ponds looking better than usual.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, October 14, 2024