

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2024

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Kris Roby, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Lucy Falcy, Kai Battenberg

Absent: Frank Clarke, Kat Clancy, Nancy Zabriskie

Guest: Craig Carson, Director of Grounds

Approval of Minutes

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

Welcome Kai Battenberg

New board member, Kai Battenberg, was introduced to the board and welcomed.

Transition (Horticulturalist/Superintendent Position)

Erik invited Craig to present his vision for developing the Horticulturalist position. Craig would like Paul and Lucy to be on the team that draws up the description for the new position. A horticultural degree would be desirable, as well as practical experience. At a meeting with Rusty, Paul, and Craig last week there was some discussion of the possibility of incorporating the Arboretum Horticulturalist position with the Campus Horticulturalist position. Paul voiced his desire that the new position be full time and 100% focused on the Arboretum. The board strongly supported this and offered to write a letter to Rusty and others to address what we would like to see happen with this new position. Julie also suggested that the board have some involvement with the search process. Yvonne offered to compile Arboretum documents that may be helpful. The importance of Paul being able to help train the new person during the transition process was vital. One option discussed was Paul staying on through phased retirement once the new person has been hired. The possibility of using Arboretum Associates funds for this was discussed. The UI should value the Arboretum enough to make supporting Paul while he is training the new hire possible. Paul was commended for the many outstanding contributions and extra efforts he has made through outreach, working with donors, outstanding horticultural accomplishments, and mentoring and supporting his staff. Having an overlap between Paul and the new hire will be critical for maintaining the institutional memory of the Arboretum.

ArborNotes

Yvonne reminded everyone that articles for the next issue are due. Paul will submit his in the next week. The issue will be going to the printer in early November. Photos of Paul were requested. There may be a need to modify the issue before it goes to the printer.

Annual Meeting

Erik reported that Kat had reserved the Great Room at the 1912 Center for Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Plant Sale

Erik contacted Jan and she will be ready to coordinate this if it goes ahead. Paul and Lucy are also willing to continue working on the plant sale. It will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 at UI Facilities, in the same location as last year.

Summer Concert

The date for next summer's concert will be Monday, July 14, 2025.

Bukvich Concert Site Project

Kris presented a letter to be sent to request donations for the Bukvich concert site project, as well as a list of potential donors. The request may also be sent out to Paul's email list of Arboretum supporters. Kris, Erik, and Yvonne volunteered to meet to brainstorm how best to contact potential donors.

New Business

Strategic Planning

It was agreed to hold off on the strategic planning process for now. Kai offered to share a copy of the recent strategic plan developed for the UI Herbarium. Yvonne volunteered to compile all the existing Arboretum documents and will provide this information to Craig.

The Garden Conservancy Northwest Network Fall 2024 Networking Event and Workshop

Paul and Lucy are interested in participating in this event on October 24-25, 2024 in Yakima. Yvonne moved to support the cost of their attending this event using Arboretum Associates funds. Julie seconded the motion and all approved.

Arboreta Updates

Paul presented a slideshow of recent projects. Highlights included: damage from the recent wind storms, removal of dead Scot's Pine, moose activities, new maps installed at UI Golf Course and kiosks, new plantings including tree hydrangeas, and progress on the installation of the new entrance signs.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, November 11, 2024