

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD

June 24, 2015 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes at 7:58 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: (11 meetings scheduled; **8 meetings** held year-to-date for 2014-15 fiscal year)

Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes, (7/1) Chair

Michelle Francos, (8/0)

Jay Hood, (8/0) Vice-Chair

Camara Williams, (3/0)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (6/2)

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Bowden, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary

Conference call to Keri Byrum established at 8:02 a.m.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Jay Hood and seconded by Michelle Francos to approve the May 27, 2015 Harry P. Leu Board minutes. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.

ATTENDANCE AND REVENUE:

Robert Bowden reported on May 2015 Leu Attendance stating year-to-date attendance was over 7,000 visitors more than last year. Paid admissions and class attendance numbers continue to be higher compared to May 2014.

The Board reviewed and discussion ensued on the May 2015 Revenue and Expense Reports.

It was moved by Michelle Francos and seconded by Camara Williams that the Leu May 2015 Attendance, Revenue and Expense reports be approved. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hearing no public comment, the meeting proceeded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Bowden and Ms. Byrum updated the board on the status of the Lake Rowena Overlook repairs, Risk Management and Fleet Facilities reviewing of safety concerns at the Gardens and the Leu highlighted on the Florida Gardening Show. Discussion ensued on the Tropical Stream Garden's sidewalks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HORTICULTURE:

Jay Hood reported from Thomas Hurst,

- The horticulture staff is working hard to keep the irrigation working overtime until a better rain pattern develops. While most of the plant material loves the hot weather, adequate watering becomes more intense. The weeds also love the hot days which increase our efforts of control.
- Several new plantings were added throughout the gardens and three large trees were removed. The removed trees, two of which were located at the front roadway, were deemed hazardous to the safety of staff and guests.
- Leu's volunteer base in the gardens continues to grow as does our intern program.

EDUCATION:

Robert Bowden reported from Linda Schmidt,

Tours:

May 2015 - 11 tours, 419 people; **May 2014** – 5 tours, 105 people

May was an unusual month we had three public school tours and several scout and private school groups. However we are now entering the slow time of the year for guided tours. We have several self-guided tours scheduled for summer (many childcare facilities), but based on other summers, the tours may or may not arrive depending on how high the temperature are on the given day

Classes:

May 2015 - 17 classes, 218 attending (4 classes canceled); **May 2014** - 13 classes, 147 attending (1 class canceled)

Plant Clinic:

May 2015 - 4 days, with 10 guests; **May 2014** – 5 days, with 15 guests

LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:

Robert Bowden reported from Antoinette Ashman,

Visitors

- **May 2015** – 2,961 visitors, 347 tours; **May 2014** – 2,208 visitors, 322 tours.

Donations

- **May 2015** was **\$437** Breakdown: \$277 cash donation + \$160 (80 cookbooks sold)
- **May 2014** was **\$423** Breakdown: \$333 cash donation + \$90 (45 cookbooks sold)
- **Totals for the Current Fiscal year: October 2014 thru May 2015**
20,936 visitors, Cookbooks Sold 399, Cookbooks Sales \$798, Total Donations \$3,574
- **Totals for the Last Fiscal year: October 2013 thru May 2014**
18,329 visitors, Cookbooks Sold 354, Cookbooks Sales \$708, Total Donations \$3,456

The Leu House Museum will be closed in July for cleaning and repairs as needed and reopens August 1, 2015.

MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Michelle Francos reported from Tracy Micciche,

Events in Review

- **Storytime at Leu Gardens**, on June 1 had attendance 442.
- **Date Night** on June 5 featured the movie “**Hunger Games, Mockingjay Part 1.**” The movie was canceled due to rain, but was rescheduled for August 1, 2015.
- **Father's Day** on June 21 had free admissions for Dads. The numbers will be reported in June's attendance report.

Film Shoot

There have been several film shoots in the gardens in June.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:

Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,

- **May 2015 Membership:** New 157, Renew 129, Rejoin 17, Upgrade 8, Downsize 12
- **May 2014 Membership:** New 118, Renew 137, Rejoin 12, Upgrade 8, Downsize 6

Leu Members Balance counts all members in each membership category. Senior and Individual has **1** adult; Household, Contributing, Sustaining, Orchid, Rose and Camellia has **2** adults and children (kindergarten thru the 12th grade) living at the same residence.

Members Balance May 2015 was 8,845, compared to May 2014 of 7,249.

May 2015 Complimentary Membership was 10, compared to May 2014 of 6.

Membership (Paid) May 2015 was 3,327, compared to May 2014 of 3,037.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was moved by Michelle Francos and seconded by Jay Hood to schedule 12 Harry P. Leu Gardens' Board meetings for the upcoming 2015-2016 fiscal year. There was no discussion. It was approved by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved by Jay Hood and seconded by Michelle Francos to approve small on-site recognition signage for sponsors of David Rogers' Big Bugs sculptures at Harry P. Leu Gardens' upcoming Big Bugs' Art Exhibit in January 2016. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:29 a.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2015.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary