

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD
September 24, 2014 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2014, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Brian Forster at 7:50 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: (11 meetings scheduled; **11 meetings** held year-to-date for 2013-14 fiscal year)

Brian Forster, (11/0) Chair	Philip Farris, (11/0)
Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes, (8/3) Vice-Chair	Michelle Francos, (9/2) via conference call
Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (6/0)	

TRUSTEE ABSENT:

Jay Hood, (9/2)

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Bowden, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Keri Leymaster Byrum, Assistant Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary

Conference Call established at 7:50 a.m. with Michelle Francos.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Lorelei Anderson-Francis and seconded by Philip Farris to approve the August 27, 2014 Harry P. Leu Board minutes. There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

ATTENDANCE AND REVENUE:

Robert Bowden reported on the August 2014 Leu Attendance report. August 2014 overall attendance was higher for the month of 129,823 comparing to last year August 2013 of 128,147.

It was moved by Philip Farris and seconded by Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes that the Leu August 2014 Attendance report be approved. It was approved by all as presented.

Robert Bowden presented draft August 2014 Revenue and Expense reports to the Board. The revenue and expense balances were not final with adjustments pending due the new financial software implementation.

It was moved by Philip Farris and seconded by Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes that the draft August 2014 Revenue and Expense report be approved. It was approved by all as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Hearing no public comment, the meeting proceeded.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Bowden asked Assistant Director, Keri Byrum, to update the Board on the recently awarded grant for the "Ribbit the Exhibit" Exhibition. Ms. Byrum informed the board members of the Friends of Leu Gardens grant application from July 2014. The total cost of the exhibit is \$45,000 which includes set up and installation of 20 sculptures. The grant was awarded by Orange County Cultural Affairs for \$25,000 the Friends of Leu Gardens has committed \$12,500 to the exhibit, with plans to fund the balance of \$7,500 thru sponsorships for each sculpture. The scheduled dates for the exhibit are January 10, 2015 thru March 31, 2015.

Discussion ensued by the Board and clarification was needed on the grants awarded to the Gardens. It noted two grants were awarded to the Gardens. The Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs Grant awarded Harry P. Leu Gardens \$150,000 for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. The Orange County Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant awarded The Friends of Leu Gardens \$25,000 for the period of November 1, 2014 thru December 31, 2015.

Ms. Anderson-Francis volunteered to help with the "Ribbit the Exhibit" with the artist and Education area of this grant.

Discussion ensued on the “Ribbit the Exhibit” exhibition.

Mr. Bowden has requested a second cost estimate for repair and/or replacement of the Rowena Overlook site (aka Wyckoff Overlook).

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HORTICULTURE:

Keri Byrum reported from Thomas Hurst,

- After thunderstorms several trees fell and damaged areas in the gardens. One of these trees fell on top of the South Woods Gazebo and did significant damage to the roof. Another huge tree fell in the North Woods and lifted the sidewalk. This has been one of the worst seasons for large trees falling due to storms.
- Our cool weather plant material is growing well and should be right on schedule for the Color Garden change out. As we are already seeing some cooler nights, this should make for a nice transition into the winter plant material.
- With October approaching, a focus now turns to several events that will be happening in the upcoming weeks. Many maintenance projects are also planned for October as our new fiscal year kicks in.

EDUCATION:

Robert Bowden reported from Linda Schmidt,

Tours:

August 2014 - 2 tours, 50 people and 1 complimentary of 6 people

August 2013 - 5 tours, 127 people, and 1 complimentary of 4 people

Classes:

August 2014 - 13 classes, 208 guests (1 canceled); **August 2013** - 8 classes, 61 guests (3 canceled)

Classes continue to do well. The fall class schedule is finished and posted on Eventbrite.

Plant Clinic:

August 2014 - 4 days, with 18 guests; **August 2013** – 4 days, with 12 guests

LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:

Lorelei Anderson-Francis reported from staff,

Visitors

- **August 2014** – 1,379 visitors, 240 tours; **August 2013** – 1,062 visitors, 202 tours.

Donations

- **August 2014** was **\$64:** **Breakdown:** \$0 cash donation + \$64 (32 cookbooks sold)
- **August 2013** was **\$38:** **Breakdown:** \$0 cash donation + \$38 (19 cookbooks sold)

MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Robert Bowden reported from Tracy Micciche,

Events in Review

- **Seed Swap** was on August 23, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Attendance of 91.
- **Date Night** on September 5 featuring the movie “**Stuck in Love**” Rated R was canceled due to rain.
- **Burgers in the Garden** on September 13, contracted by Johnny’s Fillin’ Station hosted a burger bash in the gardens. We are still waiting for final attendance count, including tickets sold.

Upcoming Special Events

- **Date Night** is on Friday, October 3, featuring the classic movie “**The Birds,**” rated PG. The gardens open at 6 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Adult admission \$6, Child \$3, free for Leu member and child under 4 years.
- **Storytime at Leu Gardens** is on October 6 (The first Monday of the month) at 10 a.m.
- **Jazz’n Blues Stroll** is on October 11 at 7 p.m., featuring three bands The Betty Fox Band, Dave Capp Project and Mud Rooster. Tickets sales start on September 29 for \$17 and \$12 plus tax. Purchase tickets online at leugardens.eventbrite.com or at Leu Gardens Giftshop. Day-of tickets are \$22 plus tax.

- **Ghost Stories** is on October 24 at 7:30 p.m. Hear wicked tales spun by professional storytellers. The gardens open at 6 p.m. Adult admission \$10, Child and Leu Member \$5.

Marketing

- Due to the State of Florida Cultural Grant, we will be advertising in a variety of different mediums for the gardens, weddings, meeting facility, tours and special events.
- We have added 5 camellia tours with the Director in January and February 2015 with preregistration required.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:

Philip Farris reported from Kim Robinson,

- **August 2014 Membership Update:** New 61, Renew 84, Rejoin 5, Upgrade 2, Downsized 4
- **August 2013 Membership Compare:** New 52, Renew 111, Rejoin 15, Upgrade 2, Downsized 1

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.

Total Leu Members Balance: August 2014 was 7,632, compared to August 2013 of 6,173.

Total Leu Memberships (Paid): August 2014 was 3,089, compared to August 2013 of 2,907.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Gardens may loan a few Leu Gardens' sculptures to Walt Disney World for display during the 2015 Epcot Flower Festival next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

As part of the Mayor's Green Program Mr. Bowden completed raised garden beds at Dover Shores Community Center and Hankins Park Recreation Site. Mr. Bowden informed the Board of the Washington Shores Community Garden's progress.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2014. **The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.**

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary