

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD
September 23, 2015 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes at 8:00 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

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

Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes, (10/1) Chair

Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (9/2)

Jay Hood, (10/1) Vice-Chair

Camara Williams, (6/0)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Michelle Francos, (9/2)

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Bowden, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens

Keri Byrum, Assistant Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary

MINUTES:

It was moved by Camara Williams and seconded by Jay Hood to approve the August 26, 2015 Harry P. Leu Board minutes. There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

ATTENDANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:

Robert Bowden reported on August 2015 Leu Attendance observing paid admissions, facility rentals and education classes continue to perform well.

It was moved by Jay Hood and seconded by Lorelei Anderson-Francis to approve Leu's August 2015 Attendance report. There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

The Board reviewed and discussed August 2015 Revenue and Expense Reports.

It was moved by Jay Hood and seconded by Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes to approve Leu's August 2015 Revenue and Expense reports. There was no further discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Leu Gardens is hosting the Florida Wildflower Foundation Symposium on September 25 and 26, 2015. Robert Bowden attended the Florida Local Food Summit three-day conference in Gainesville on September 18 to 20, 2015.

Robert Bowden and Keri Byrum were speakers in September on the Gardeners Hotline, a 30-minute public television program, in Daytona Beach.

Ms. Byrum notified the board of the Spanish edition of Leu's visitors map will be available to guests in October.

Lorelei Anderson-Francis attended the City's welcome reception introducing Shannon Fitzgerald, the new director of the Mennello Museum of American Art and manager of the City's Public Art program. Frank Holt is retiring from the City at the end of September.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HORTICULTURE:

Jay Hood reported from Thomas Hurst,

- Cooler nights have arrived and we are leaving the rainy pattern behind. Overall, the gardens are in good shape heading into the fall and winter months. We will be changing out the Color garden shortly and installing our cool weather plant material. It is growing out well and is ready for the transition from the nursery to the garden.
- The FNGLA trials have concluded and the plant material will soon be removed. The areas where they were planted will then be restored. The horticulture staff will be mulching throughout the gardens with pine straw as we spray through our areas. This not only helps us with the weed control, but also improves the appearance of the gardens.
- With the October events gearing up, staff is looking forward to the cooler weather and lower maintenance issues.

EDUCATION:

Robert Bowden reported from Linda Schmidt,

Tours:

August 2015 - 2 tours, 69 people; **August 2014** – 2 tours, 50 people (1 complimentary tour, 6 people)

Garden guide training for new guides started this month and training sessions for current guides starts in October.

Classes:

August 2015 - 14 classes, 203 attending; **August 2014** - 13 classes, 208 attending (1 class canceled)

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

Plant Clinic:

August 2015 - 4 days, with 7 guests; **August 2014** – 4 days, with 18 guests

Summer Camps:

Junior Garden Detective Camp had 16 campers the week of August 3 to 7 for kindergarten thru first grades. Campers spent an hour in the Garden each morning exploring the theme for the day, and then came back in for snacks, activities, and stories all centered on that theme. Campers planted something daily to take home. This was the last summer camp for the year. Ms. Schmidt thanked Leu staff and volunteers, Sue Keith and Sanya Daly who helped with the camps.

LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:

Lorelei Anderson-Franics reported from Antoinette Ashman,

Visitors

- **August 2015** – 1,415 visitors, 250 tours; **August 2014** – 1,379 visitors, 240 tours.

Donations

- **August 2015** was **\$156.00** **Breakdown:** \$84 cash donation + \$72 (36 cookbooks sold)
- **August 2014** was **\$280.00** **Breakdown:** \$216 cash donation + \$64 (32 cookbooks sold)

MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Keri Byrum reported from Tracy Micciche,

Events in Review

- **Date Night** on September 4th featured the movie “**Insurgent**” rated PG13. The movie was canceled due to rain.

Upcoming Events

- **Date Night** is on Friday, October 2 featuring the 1960 classic movie “**Psycho**,” rated R. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.
- **Storytime at Leu Gardens** is on October 5, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m.
- **Jazz’n Blues Stroll**, is on Saturday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m. featuring three bands with Jeff Howell Band, Robert “Top” Thomas and the Thom Chambers Group. Tickets on sale September 23 for \$17 and \$13 plus tax. Purchase tickets online at leugardens.eventbrite.com or in person. Day-of tickets are \$22 plus tax.

Marketing

Travel Zoo has 241 admission vouchers for Leu Gardens and 90 vouchers have been redeemed. All vouchers expire at the end of September 2015.

Filming

Warner Brothers Finland will be filming in the gardens on September 22 for a television movie only to air in Finland.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:

Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,

- **August 2015 Membership:** New 57, Renew 103
- **August 2014 Membership:** New 61, Renew 85, Rejoin 12, Upgrade 3, Downsize 5

There were 3,304 paid memberships in August 2015, with paid memberships of 3,089 in August 2014.

There were 2 complimentary memberships in August 2015 but none in August 2014.

The Altru software conversion is progressing. We are presently processing all incoming memberships with the program. The City of Orlando revenue collections team is setting up our Cybersource account for online payment processing. We hope to have online renewals and registration operational by the end of the month.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Update on repairs of the Lake Rowena Overlook

Ms. Byrum updated the board on the ongoing work repairs of the Lake Rowena Overlook. There is a planned grand opening for the Overlook on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. The sidewalk walkover will be repaired before the grand opening.

B. Funding status for the Big Bugs Exhibition

The Friends of Leu Gardens grant application of \$40,000 to help fund the Big Bugs exhibition from Orange County Cultural Tourism has been approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Bowden shared with the Leu Board of Commissioner Robert Stuart's plan to use part of his district's discretionary fund to complete the installation of faux wrought-iron fence along the Nebraska Street border of Leu Gardens. Mr. Bowden reminded the Board of The Friends of Leu Gardens past approval on January 28, 2009 of \$40,000 that funded the installation of faux wrought-iron fence on the corner of Nebraska Street and the realignment of the service gate.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2015.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary