

**HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD**  
**April 27, 2016 Minutes**

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Lorelei Anderson-Francis at 7:53 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **6 meetings** held year-to-date for 2015-16 fiscal year)  
Michelle Francos, (6/0) Chair  
Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (6/0) Vice Chair  
Jennifer Lombardo, (6/0)  
Brendan O'Connor, (1/0)  
Michael Provenzale, (6/0)  
Alberto Sanchez de Fuentes, (5/1)  
Camara Williams, (5/1)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** Jay Hood, (5/1)

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

**Welcome**

Lorelei Anderson-Francis welcomed and introduced new Leu Gardens' Board member, Brendan O'Connor.

**MINUTES:**

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Camara Williams to approve the March 23, 2016 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 March 2016 Leu Attendance and noted that attendance is 11,000 ahead of last year's numbers with paid admissions 6,800 more than last year.

**It was moved by Camara Williams and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo to approve Leu's March 2016 Attendance reports.** There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

**Michelle Francos arrived at 7:58 a.m.**

Mr. Bowden reviewed the March 2016 Revenue and Expense Reports with the Board noting increases in most departments. Discussion ensued on operational and budgeted expenses.

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Camara Williams to approve Leu's March 2016 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:**

Robert Bowden informed the board of Thomas Hurst, Horticultural Manager, absence due to illness.

The Florida Flower Trials have been installed in the Gardens.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**EDUCATION:**

*Michael Provenzale reported from Linda Schmidt,*

**Tours:**

**March 2016** - 28 tours, 974 people, **March 2015** – 14 tours, 433 people

Tours were busy in March and April especially the Big Bug tours. In March we had 15 bug tours with 620 children even though all schools had spring break in March, we did well. Several schools, mostly private had never been to the gardens before, we hope the gardens become an annual visit with the great responses from teachers and students.

**Classes:**

**March 2016** - 12 classes, 170 attending (2 cancelled), **March 2015** – 13 classes, 154 attending (4 classes cancelled)

In conjunction with the Big Bugs exhibit we offered 14 (7 adults, 3 children, 4 family) insect-related classes January thru April.

**Plant Clinic:**

**March 2016** - 5 days, with 19 guests, **March 2015** – 4 days with 15 people

Mr. Bowden shared the City's Stormwater department future plans to install a new drainage system at the Gardens.

**LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:**

*Lorelei Anderson-Francis reported from Antoinette Ashman,*

**Visitors**

- **March 2016** – 3,572 visitors, 330 tours; **March 2015** – 3,181 visitors, 340 tours

**Donations**

- **March 2016** was **\$522.00**                    **Breakdown:** \$410 cash donation + \$112 (61 cookbooks sold)
- **March 2015** was **\$482.00**                    **Breakdown:** \$338 cash donation + \$144 (72 cookbooks sold)

On April 6, Joe Stine, trustee of the Leu Foundation, visited the Gardens for the Leu House Museum Social. Mr. Stine spoke to 18 museum volunteers and 5 staff personnel regarding the Leu's history.

Ms. Anderson-Francis commented on trying to have Boys Scouts events at the gardens.

**MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

*Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,*

**Events in Review**

- **(Amendment Revenue, Profit and Attendance due to double Charge) Valentine's Concert on February 14;** Attendance of 1,741; Revenue of \$27,907.28; Profit of \$26,560.28.  
**Prior Review:** Attendance of 1,743; Revenue of \$27,954.14; Profit of \$26,607.14.
- **(Amended Revenue and Profit – Square Profits added) Movie Night on March 4 featured the movie "Them!"** Revenue of \$1,254.64; Profit of \$928.64. **Prior Review:** Revenue of \$1,196.00; Profit of \$870.45.
- **Leu's Annual Plant Sale** was on March 12 and March 13. Attendance of 11,239; Cost of \$3,101.19; Revenue of \$20,933.94; Profit of \$17,832.75. Sold 20 memberships during the members' hour (**valued \$955**).
- **Movie Night** on April 1 featured the movie **"Insurgent."** Attendance of 607; Cost of \$26.00; Revenue of \$2,487.53; Profit of \$2,461.53.
- **Storytime at Leu Gardens**, on April 4 had attendance of 305.
- **Country'n Blues Stroll** on April 9. Attendance of 778. Cost of \$3,736.60; Revenue of \$11,343. Profit of \$7,606.40.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Storytime at Leu Gardens** is on May 2, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m.
- **Movie Night** is on Friday, May 6 featuring the movie **"Mission Impossible Rogue Nation."** The movie starts at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.
- **Mother's Day** is on Sunday, May 8 with Leu Gardens celebrating Moms with free admission for moms. Sugarbuzz and Peak Season Pops will be in the gardens selling delicious desserts.

**MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

*Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,*

- **March 2016 Membership:**            New 373, Renew 300, Upgrade 15, Downsize 7
- **March 2015 Membership:**            New 205, Renew 190, Upgrade 14, Downsize 18

March 2016 Paid Membership total was 4,512, comparing to March 2015 Paid Membership total of 3,335.

In March, there were 166 new and renewed memberships processed thru Altru software online (24%).

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed Leu having a Chinese New Year event in January 2017. It was concluded that with the Dinosaur exhibit installation, the gardens could not handle another event in January but will consider having Asian gardening classes during the Chinese celebrations. Mr. Provenzale will attend the next Mills 50 Group meeting on May 10.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed Leu Gardens' volunteer appreciation dinner and plans for honoring volunteers next year, with further advance notice of the event.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.** The next board meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2016.