

## HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD

### June 22, 2016 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Lorelei Anderson-Francis, Vice Chair, at 7:51 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **8 meetings** held year-to-date for 2015-16 fiscal year)

Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (8/0) Vice Chair

Brendan O'Connor, (3/0)

Isaiah Cottle, (2/0)

Michael Provenziale, (8/0)

Jennifer Lombardo, (8/0)

Camara Williams, (7/1)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** Michelle Francos, (7/1), Chair

**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 Michael Provenziale and seconded by Camara Williams to approve the May 25, 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 May 2016 Leu Attendance. Mr. Bowden commented on May 2016 attendance is 2,300 more than May 2015 numbers, fiscal year-to-date attendance is 14,900 ahead of last year's numbers and paid admissions increased to more than 10,600 over last year.

Discussion ensued on revenues and expenses for May 2016.

**It was moved by Jennifer Lombardo and seconded by Camara Williams to approve Leu's May 2016 Attendance, Revenue and Expense reports.** Discussion ensued by the board on the Gardens' strategic and marketing plans for the struggling revenue areas of facility use, weddings and receptions. **It was approved by all as presented.**

The Board agreed to discuss Leu's strategic plan at the August 24, 2016 board meeting.

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

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

There was no new update on Thomas Hurst, Horticultural Manager, who has been absent due to illness.

New pavers are being installed in Rose Garden for public safety. The Rose Garden is being modified to a more distinctive collection while a new for irrigation system is being updated.

The Gardens received a donation of over 200 bromeliads from Grant Groves at Color Zone Tropicals Nursery in Winter Garden.

Magnolias and camellias will be planted in the area previously known as the Citrus Grove. Mr. Bowden and Eric Schmidt, Botanical Records Specialist, will travel to North Florida later next week to select camellia plants.

Keri Byrum informed the board that the 2016-2017 Florida Division of Cultural Affairs General Program Support Grant for \$91,420.00 has been awarded to Leu Gardens.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

##### **EDUCATION:**

*Michael Provenziale reported from Linda Schmidt,*

##### **Tours:**

**May 2016** - 8 tours, 452 people, 1 complimentary tour, 18 people (FNGLA), **May 2015** – 11 tours, 419 people

May was an unusual month with 5 public school tours. The Gardens are entering the slow time of the year for guided tours. Several self-guided tours are scheduled for summer (many child-care facilities), but based on past summers, the tours may or may not arrive depending on the weather on the given day.

**Classes:**

**May 2016** - 15 classes, 191 attending (1 class cancelled), **May 2015** – 17 classes, 218 attending (4 classes cancelled)

Classes are doing well.

**Plant Clinic:**

**May 2016** - 4 days, with 14 guests, **May 2015** – 4 days with 10 people

**LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:**

*Lorelei Anderson-Francis reported from Antoinette Ashman,*

**Visitors**

- **May 2016** – 3,268 visitors, 330 tours; **May 2015** – 2,961 visitors, 347 tours

**Donations**

- **May 2016** was **\$538.00**                      **Breakdown:** \$384 cash donation + \$154 (77 cookbooks sold)
- **May 2015** was **\$437.00**                      **Breakdown:** \$277 cash donation + \$160 (80 cookbooks sold)

January thru May 2016 Leu Museum attendance had a total of 15,543 visitors.

The historical home will be closed the month of July for cleaning and maintenance.

**MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

*Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,*

**Events in Review**

- **Movie Night** on June 3 featured the movie **“The Intern.”** Attendance of 780; Cost of \$525.08; Revenue of \$3,178.31; Profit of \$2,653.23.
- **Father’s Day** on June 19 offered free admissions for 79 Dads. Attendance was 291. Paid admissions of 151.

**MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

*Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,*

- **May 2016 Membership:**                      New 235, Renew 94, Rejoins 79, Upgrade 4, Downsize 3
- **May 2015 Membership:**                      New 157, Renew 129, Rejoins 17, Upgrade 8, Downsize 12

**May 2016** Paid Membership total was 4,640, comparing to **May 2015** Paid Membership total of 3,327.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

It was noted that Brendan O’Connor and Isaiah Cottle are on the Historical Markers committee and will update the Leu Board monthly. Michelle Francos withdrew as a member of the committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Anderson-Francis inquired about signage acknowledgement for the Pulse tragedy victims at the Gardens. Discussion ensued and Mr. Bowden will confirm with City Hall about signage for Pulse victims.

Mr. O’Connor asked about Plein Air artists painting at the Gardens. It was clarified that Plein Air artists have painted and had an auction at the Gardens in the past.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Michael Provenza and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 a.m.** The next board meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2016.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary