

**HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD**  
**February 22, 2017 Minutes**

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Michelle Francos, Chair, at 7:48 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **4 meetings** held year-to-date for 2016-17 fiscal year)  
Michelle Francos, (4/0) Chair  
Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (4/0)  
Isaiah Cottle, (4/0)  
Jennifer Lombardo, (3/1)  
Brendan O'Connor, (4/0)  
Michael Provenzale, (4/0)  
Camara Williams, (4/0)

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

**MINUTES:**

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo to approve the January 25, 2017 Harry P. Leu Board minutes with the correction on page 2, "of the Leu House Museum Report being reported by Robert Bowden and not by Lorelei Anderson-Francis." There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved by all with the correction.**

**ATTENDANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:**

Robert Bowden reported on January 2017 Leu Attendance.

Overall attendance for January 2017 was higher than last year by 8,700 visitors, with paid garden admission higher than last year by 6,000 visitors.

**It was moved by Brendan O'Connor and seconded by Lorelei Anderson-Francis to approve Leu's January 2017 Attendance reports.** There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

The Board discussed Leu's January 2017 revenue and expenses.

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Isaiah Cottle to approve Leu's January 2017 Revenue and Expense reports.** 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 commented on how busy the Gardens have been with children, parents, grandparents and others visiting the Dinosaur exhibit and camellias. The Leu staff has been working extremely hard with the increased attendance.

Keri Byrum informed the board on the very large attendance on Dino Day, Saturday, January 28, 2017.

**Camara Williams arrived at 8:07 a.m.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**HORTICULTURE:** *Brendan O'Connor reported from Eric Sondgeroth,*  
The Horticulture staff have been performing irrigation inspections throughout the Gardens.

Work continued to replace some additional beds in the Rose Garden with new more disease resistant variety roses. Irrigation is being upgraded at the same time.

Roses are being cut back in the Rose Garden along with some reduction pruning on trees and shrubs.

Staff assisted with the installation of the exhibit and barriers to keep visitors away from the dinosaurs.

Staff continued to mulch areas in the north and south woods.

Work progressed in the former Citrus Grove area to prep for new plantings and a new paver area being installed.

The perennial border plant material has been completed.

The fence was installed near the horticulture staff break room and the gate to allow access to mower and equipment in the south parking lot was completed.

A bid was accepted to remove a declining Laurel Oak tree at the Leu House Museum.

The Floral Clock gears were taken to an Orlando machine shop for repair. We hope to have it back by early March.

**EDUCATION:**

***Michael Provenzale reported from Sandi Linn,***

**Tours:**

**January 2017** - 12 tours, 387 people; **January 2016** - 8 tours, 224 people

The dinosaur invasion tours for school groups began on January 17 and have been going very well. The students and teachers love the dinosaurs and my giant millipede, 'Millie' has become very popular to all the groups.

Ms. Linn brought Millie, the giant millipede, to the meeting for the board to view.

**Classes:**

**January 2017** - 13 classes, 150 attending; **January 2016** - 22 classes, 307 attending

We had fewer classes this January than last year. I am in the process of increasing classes with additional instructors for the upcoming months.

**Plant Clinic:**

**January 2017** - 4 days, with 12 people; **January 2016** - 4 days, with 18 people

Leu Gardens held 23<sup>rd</sup> Envirothon on February 2<sup>nd</sup> with 220 students and staff from Orange, Seminole and Volusia County high schools participating in this annual event. The students competed in teams in five areas: aquatics, soils, forestry, wetlands and general environment.

**LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:**

***Lorelei Anderson-Francis reported from Antoinette Ashman,***

**Visitors**

▪ **January 2017** – 3,385 visitors, 319 tours; **January 2016** – 2,689 visitors, 283 tours

**Donations**

▪ <b>January 2017</b> was <b>\$543.00</b>	<b>Breakdown:</b> \$431 cash donation + \$112 (56 cookbooks sold)
▪ <b>January 2016</b> was <b>\$497.00</b>	<b>Breakdown:</b> \$387 cash donation + \$110 (55 cookbooks sold)

The museum had total attendance from October 2016 thru January 2017 of 12,575 visitors.

Ms. Francis-Anderson suggested capturing Leu's history by preserving audio interviews of the Bradley's and Alfred Pfeiffer. Mr. Bowden will research find the previous audio from the Bradley's for the next meeting.

**MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

***Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,***

**Events in Review**

- **Movie Night** on February 3 featured the movie "**Spectre**." There was attendance of 668. Cost of \$28.00. Revenue of \$2,685.71.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on February 6 had attendance of 249.
- **Valentine's Concert** on Saturday, February 11 featured 3 bands with attendance of 1,617. Cost of \$1,486.28. Revenue of \$23,802.00.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Movie Night** is on Friday, March 3 will feature the classic film 1993 "**Jurassic Park**." The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on March 6, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m.

- **Leu's Annual Plant Sale** is on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday March 12 at 9:00 a.m. Free admission all weekend. Over 50 vendors selling a variety of plants, outdoor accessories and great food. Leu Members get early entrance on Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 a.m.
- **Boots & Blues Concert** is on Saturday, April 1, at 7:00 p.m. with three bands performing country, blues and New Orleans blues and jazz music throughout the gardens. Tickets are on sale March 17 for \$15 and \$11 plus tax. Purchase tickets online at [leugardens.eventbrite.com](http://leugardens.eventbrite.com) or in person. Day-of tickets are \$20 plus tax.

Mr. O'Connor questioned the possibility of Leu Gardens' selling or rent wagons to visitors during the plant sale.

Ms. Ashman noted to the board that offering wagons for rent was reviewed in the past but was set aside due to logistics.

### **Marketing**

Leu Gardens was featured in American Airlines magazine American Way for the month of February.

WKMG Channel 6 did a quick weather spot at Leu Gardens on February 9 and plugged Valentine's Concert.

Leu Gardens partnered with Visit Orlando to be included in 4 grand prize give-a-way packages to different travel agents across the globe.

Leu Gardens was also featured on Kidventures.com.

### **MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

*Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,*

- **January 2017 Membership:** New 332, Renew 205, Upgrade 5, Downsize 9
- **January 2016 Membership:** New 203, Renew 125, Upgrade 4, Downsize 5

**January 2017** Paid Membership total was 5,123, compared to **January 2016** Paid Membership total of 4,254.

There was 1 complimentary membership in **January 2017** and none in **January 2016**.

**OLD BUSINESS:**                      **None.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Nominating Committee met at 7:35 a.m. on February 22, 2017 with board members Michael Provenzale and Jennifer Lombardo attending to choose the next Leu Gardens' Chair and Vice Chair positions. The committee recommended Lorelei Anderson-Francis for Chair and Camara Williams as Vice-Chair for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Lorelei Anderson-Francis and Camara Williams accepted the Chair and Vice-Chair nominations for the Harry P. Leu Gardens Board.

**It was moved by Brendan O'Connor and seconded by Isaiah Cottle to approve Lorelei Anderson-Francis and Camara Williams as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively for the Harry P. Leu Gardens Board. There was no discussion. It was approved by all unanimously.**

Isaiah Cottle will be the liaison for the Leu House Museum.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 a.m.** The next board meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary