

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

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Lorelei Anderson-Francis, Chair, at 7:52 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **5 meetings** held year-to-date for 2016-17 fiscal year)  
Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (5/0) Chair  
Camara Williams, (5/0) Vice Chair  
Isaiah Cottle, (5/0)  
Michelle Francos, (4/0)  
Jennifer Lombardo, (4/1)  
Brendan O'Connor, (5/0)  
Michael Provenzale, (5/0)

**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 Provenzale and seconded by Camara Williams to approve the February 22, 2017 Harry P. Leu Board minutes with the corrections noted below in the Membership & Volunteers section on page 3.**

*“Changed January 2017 balances to: new 418, renew 245, upgrade 9, downgrade 10, Total memberships 5,341  
Changed January 2016 balances to: new 218, renew 203, upgrade 3, downgrade 2, Total memberships 3,976”*

There was no further discussion. **The minutes were approved by all with the corrections.**

**ATTENDANCE, REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:**

Robert Bowden reported on February 2017 Leu Attendance.

Overall attendance for February 2017 was higher than last year by 14,000 visitors, with paid garden admission higher than last year by 9,400 visitors.

**It was moved by Michelle Francos and seconded by Michael Provenzale to approve Leu’s February 2017 Attendance reports.** There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

The Board discussed Leu’s February 2017 revenue and expenses. It was clarified by Antoinette Ashman that February 2017 revenues were not all reflected in the revenue report, but would be recorded in March 2017 revenues.

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Michelle Francos to approve Leu’s February 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 recognized and thanked Michelle Francos for her years of service on the board.

Mr. Bowden gave best wishes to Keri Byrum in her new endeavors as she resigned from the City of Orlando and relocating to Iowa.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**HORTICULTURE:** *Michelle Francos reported from Eric Sondgeroth,*  
The Horticulture staff has completed cut backs in the Rose Garden.

The placement of pine straw in areas has started in the gardens and around the Garden House.

Work continues in the former Citrus Grove area to prep for new plantings and the new paver area is complete.

A declining Laurel Oak tree was removed at the Leu House Museum.

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

Part of a Live Oak fell near the rain shelter in the north woods. The debris on the pathway has been cleared but the pathway is closed until the remaining part of the tree can be removed.

The staff worked on preparing the gardens for the annual Plant Sale.

The gardens received a donation of 300 Sun Rosa roses that will be installed at the center fountain in the Rose Garden.

**EDUCATION:**

*Michael Provenzale reported from Sandi Linn,*

**Tours:**

**February 2017** - 21 tours, 567 people; 2 comp., 21 people and Envirothon with 220 people

**February 2016** - 17 tours, 573 people; 1 comp. and Envirothon with 275 people

The dinosaur invasion tours continued for school groups throughout the month of February. The students and teachers really love the dinosaurs. Many more tours are scheduled for March and April. The annual Envirothon was held on February 2 with 220 students and staff. The board viewed pictures of the Envirothon.

**Classes:**

**February 2017** - 14 classes, 218 attending (1 class cancelled, 1 rescheduled per instructor);

**February 2016** - 13 classes, 174 attending

**Plant Clinic:**

**February 2017** - 4 days, with 11 people; **February 2016** - 4 days, with 22 people

A new Daisy Girl Scout tour was introduced in February that included some hands-on activities and some live invertebrates. In March the first invincible invertebrates outreach was presented at Millennia Gardens Elementary School's Ecology Club.

**LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:**

*Isaiah Cottle reported from Antoinette Ashman,*

**Visitors**

▪ **February 2017** – 3,133 visitors, 310 tours; **February 2016** – 3,436 visitors, 311 tours

**Donations**

▪ **February 2017** was **\$535.00**

**Breakdown:** \$451 cash donation + \$84 (42 cookbooks sold)

▪ **February 2016** was **\$256.00**

**Breakdown:** \$140 cash donation + \$116 (58 cookbooks sold)

The museum attendance from October 2016 thru February 2017 was 15,708 visitors; last year had 14,448 visitors.

Mr. Bowden is meeting next week with Pam Schwartz, Chief Curator, at the Orlando History Center to discuss audio and video taping for Leu Gardens' website.

Brendan O'Connor arrived at 8:15 a.m.

**MARKETING & SPECIAL EVENTS:**

*Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,*

**Events in Review**

▪ **Movie Night** on March 3 featured the movie "**Jurassic Park.**" There was attendance of 1,196. Cost of \$0.00. (paid by grant) Revenue of \$4,583.47.

▪ **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on March 6 had attendance of 214.

▪ **Plant Sale** on Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12 had record attendance of 13,070 people.

**Upcoming Events**

▪ **Boots & Blues Concert** is on Saturday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. Enjoy an amazing evening of country, blues and New Orleans jazz music throughout the gardens. Tickets on sale now 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 for everyone.

▪ **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on April 3, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m.

▪ **Movie Night** is on Friday, April 7 will feature "**Star Trek Beyond.**" The movie starts at 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.

Ms. Byrum informed the board that Audi will have an automobile in the gardens on Boots & Blues Concert night and it will be covered with flowers.

**Marketing**

Leu Gardens' Plant Sale and Survivor Tree were featured in the *Orlando Sentinel* on Monday, March 13.

Leu Gardens' Date Night Movies won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Orlando's Date Night Awards.

We have a great partnership with *Orlando Playground Magazine* which has been promoting the Dinosaur Invasion.

British Airways Holidays is featuring Leu Gardens in an upcoming article on ba.com.

**MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

*Camara Williams reported from Kim Robinson,*

- **February 2017 Membership:** New 448, Renew 374, Upgrade 9, Downsize 7
- **February 2016 Membership:** New 396, Renew 166, Upgrade 8, Downsize 3

**February 2017** Paid Membership total was 5,664, compared to **February 2016** Paid Membership total of 4,352.

There were 16 complimentary memberships in **February 2017** and 15 in **February 2016**.

Online purchases thru Altru for February 2017 sold 205 memberships (valued \$10,205) and 156 Advance Garden Admission tickets (valued \$1,357).

Leu Gardens' Annual Volunteers Appreciation dinner is on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**           None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**       None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Michelle Francos and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo that the meeting be adjourned at 8:39 a.m.** The next board meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary