

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD
January 24, 2018 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Lorelei Anderson-Francis, Chair, at 7:53 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: (12 meetings scheduled; **3 meetings, 1 cancelled** for year-to-date for 2017-18 fiscal year)

Lorelei Anderson-Francis, (2/1) Chair
Camara Williams, (3/0) Vice Chair
Isaiah Cottle, (1/0)

Jennifer Lombardo, (2/1)
Danielle Montoya, (3/0)
Michael Provenzale, (3/0)

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Brendan O'Connor, (2/1)
Isaiah Cottle, (2/1)

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Bowden, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Debra Seay, Accounting Specialist II, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary

MINUTES:

It was moved by Camara Williams and seconded by Danielle Montoya to approve the November 29, 2017 Harry P. Leu Board minutes with the corrections to trustees attendance of Camara Williams, Isaiah Cottle and Danielle Montoya from (1/0) to (2/0) and Brendan O'Connor and Michael Provenzale (1/1) to (2/0). There was no discussion. **It was approved by all with the corrections.**

ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Robert Bowden reported on the November 2017 and December 2017 Leu Attendance reports. The board was reminded that the Gardens was closed due to Hurricane Irma from Sunday, September 10, 2017 for garden admissions for 21 days and reopened on Monday, October 1, 2017. The Leu House Museum has been closed since Friday, September 7, 2017 and will remain closed due to damage sustained from the storm until its repair.

Attendance was 7,900 less visitors compared to last year. Several special events three Movie Nights and the Fall Concert along with weddings had to be modified due to areas impacted by the storm to insure guest safety. "*Christmas at the Leu House*" event at the historical home scheduled for November 12, 2017 thru January 3, 2018 was cancelled due to hurricane damage. This impacted garden admissions and tours greatly.

It was moved by Camara Williams and seconded by Michael Provenzale to approve Leu's November 2017 and December 2017 Attendance reports. There was no further discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:

Robert Bowden reported on November 2017 and December 2017 Revenue and Expense reports. The impact of Hurricane Irma continues from the previous fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. The closing of areas and the Leu House Museum due to safety and damage impacted tours, facility rentals, special events and the overall admissions to the gardens for the current fiscal year. Danielle Montoya's query was confirmed, "If everything being comparable with no Hurricane Irma, would the revenue numbers be higher?" The expenses for Fleet/Facilities and Supplies accounts were high. Discussion of the Leu House Museum ensued.

It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Camara Williams to approve Leu's November 2017 and December 2017 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:

Mr. Bowden presented Lorelei Anderson-Francis with an appreciation plaque for her years of service on the Harry P. Leu Gardens Board.

Mr. Bowden updated the board on the status of debris removal in the Gardens and the installment of Nature Connects with Lego Bricks exhibition.

The Historic Preservation Board will be involved in the review process of the pre-bid for the repair of the Leu House Museum when it comes forward.

Debbie Sauls, Leu's Event Coordinator II, retired on January 5, 2018.

Ms. Anderson-Francis would like the STEM statement *"This whimsical, mindfully constructed exhibition will inspire visitors of all ages to freely think critically and creatively. Guest centered activities and workshops are planned around the exhibit which will apply mathematics, science and explore the engineering design process in the midst of beautiful Leu Gardens"* be included in grant applications.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HORTICULTURE:

Robert Bowden reported from Eric Sondgeroth,

The Horticulture Staff have been performing irrigation inspections throughout the Gardens.

We are continuing to work in the Southern Garden formerly the Citrus Grove area to prep for new plantings. We continue to make progress with new plantings.

Barrier Island Construction has substantially completed the Trellis in the Southern garden and will be finished in the next few days.

GroundTek, the contractor performing the tree and debris cleanup from Hurricane Irma has started and will be completed by January 26, 2018. After this process is complete, we will assess further work and and/or cleanup.

The Horticulture staff has monitored cold weather conditions and protected plant material as needed. Some floral has been changed out to more cold hardy material for the season.

Installation of the Nature Connects Exhibit and all barriers were completed. All art pieces will be monitored with adjustment of barriers and plant material as needed.

The annual cutbacks of roses in the Rose Garden have begun and will continue through February.

The Horticulture staff replaced the irrigation controller in the gardens. The new irrigation controller will allow us to schedule and monitor the irrigation system more efficiently. We will also have the ability to use new technology, like weather-based monitoring, remotes and flow monitoring.

EDUCATION:

Michael Provenzale reported from Sandi Linn,

Tours:

November 2017 – 4 tours, 73 people, 1 comp tour, 20 people; **November 2016** - 15 tours, 377 people

December 2017 –No tours; **December 2016** - 4 tours, 60 people

Classes:

November 2017 - 14 classes, 188 attending; **November 2016** - 11 classes, 89 attending

December 2017 - 6 classes, 72 attending; **December 2016** - 10 classes, 138 attending

Plant Clinic:

November 2017 - 5 days, with 5 people; **November 2016** - 4 days, with 9 people

December 2017 - 4 days, with 6 people; **December 2016** - 4 days, with 9 people

Classes did well in November. Tours were down again in November and there were no tours in December. The teacher who cancelled the school tour stated it was because they couldn't afford the buses and others noted the closing of the museum. Several calls from groups inquired about the Leu House Museum being decorated for the holidays. Ms. Linn presented an Outreach table at the downtown library on December 2, 2017 for their LEGO® competition event to promote Nature Connects exhibition with approximately 400 people in attendance.

MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & GRANTS:

Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,

Events in Review

- **Movie Night** on December 1 featured the movie **"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."** There was attendance of 1,001. Cost of \$363.00. Revenue of \$4,335.59.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on December 4 had attendance of 359.

Upcoming Events

- **Connect with Nature Day** is on Saturday, January 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We have a variety of vendors from arts and crafts to a live insect zoo. This will be a fun day for the entire family. Cost is daytime garden admission.
- **Movie Night** is on Friday, February 2nd at 7:30 p.m. will feature the movie “**Groundhog Day.**” The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on February 5, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m. This free event is sponsored by Kids Urgent Care.
- **Valentine’s Concert** is on Wednesday, February 14, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A very special concert with Ricky & the Buzzcatz performing at the floral clock. Tickets are on sale January 26, the cost is \$15 general and \$10 for members, Leu Members may purchase up to 4 tickets at member price.

Marketing

Channel 9 and Channel 13 did stories on the freeze interviewing Robert Bowden and Tracy Micciche about how to protect your plants.

Mr. Bowden was interviewed about Nature Connects® exhibit for Fox 35 Good Day Orlando.

We have partnered with Orange County Library System Check It Out program promoting the Nature Connects® exhibit at all branches. Any child who checks out 5 items in the month of January will receive free admission to the Nature Connects® exhibit with a paying adult.

Visit Orlando brought in 5 United Kingdom journalists on December 7 and on December 14, the gardens was featured in a blog called clutchandcarry.com.

Orlando Weekly did a story on gifts from locals and included one of our instructors, Victoria Bealke, and her upcoming classes at Leu Gardens.

Mr. Bowden commented on the Adopt-A-Road program and the Gardens supporting two roads (Semoran Blvd. to SR408 and near the Wekiva/Longwood area).

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:

Danielle Montoya reported from Colin Worley,

- **November 2017 Membership:** New 143, Renew 166, Upgrade 2, Downsize 3
- **November 2016 Membership:** New 218, Renew 129, Upgrade 8, Downsize 5
- **December 2017 Membership:** New 245, Renew 185, Upgrade 5, Downsize 4
- **December 2016 Membership:** New 322, Renew 217, Upgrade 5, Downsize 9

November 2017 Paid Membership total was 4,939, compared to **November 2016** Paid Membership total of 4,802.

December 2017 Paid Membership total was 4,807, compared to **December 2016** Paid Membership total of 4,979.

There were 9 complimentary memberships in **November 2017** and 20 in **November 2016**.

There were 13 complimentary memberships in **December 2017** and 8 in **December 2016**.

NEW BUSINESS: **None.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. Francis-Anderson stated she would like the history of the Bradley’s included on Leu Gardens’ website.

Mr. Provenzale complimented the staff on how good the Nature Connects® with Lego Bricks exhibit and the Gardens look.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Camara Williams that the meeting be adjourned at 9:09 a.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2018.