

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD
February 28, 2018 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Camara Williams, Chair, at 7:55 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: (12 meetings scheduled; **4 meetings, 1 cancelled** for year-to-date for 2017-18 fiscal year)

Camara Williams, (4/0) Vice Chair

Danielle Montoya, (3/0)

Isaiah Cottle, (3/1)

Michael Morsberger, (1/0)

Jason Kelly, (1/0)

Michael Provenzale, (4/0)

Jennifer Lombardo, (3/1)

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 Michael Provenzale and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo to approve the January 24, 2018 Harry P. Leu Board minutes. There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

Danielle Montoya and Jason Kelly arrived at 7:57 a.m.

WELCOME TO NEW LEU BOARD MEMBERS:

The board welcomed new Leu Board members, Michael Morsberger and Jason Kelly.

ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Robert Bowden reported on the January 2018 Leu Attendance reports.

Attendance was 8,390 less visitors compared to last year. The weather this January was colder and with more freezes than last year.

Camara Williams questioned Michael Provenzale if he was still on the Mills 50 District Board and about Leu Gardens incorporating activities for the Chinese New Year celebration next year.

It was moved by Isaiah Cottle and seconded by Danielle Montoya to approve Leu's January 2018 Attendance report. There was no further discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:

Robert Bowden reported on January 2018 Revenue and Expense reports.

It was moved by Isaiah Cottle and seconded by Michael Provenzale to approve Leu's January 2018 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 updated the board on the status of debris removal in the Gardens and the installment of Nature Connects with Lego Bricks exhibition.

A Request-For-Proposal (RFP) is in progress for the work on the Leu House Museum. The estimated start time is April 2018 to begin working on the museum.

Several nurseries from the Front Runners Chapter of Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA) donated 115 trees of varying sizes to replace those damaged by the storm to Leu Gardens' nursery.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HORTICULTURE:

Robert Bowden reported from Eric Sondgeroth,

Barrier Island Construction has completed the Trellis in the Southern garden. The City's Facilities department will be painting it in the next few days.

GroundTek, the contractor performing the tree and debris cleanup from Hurricane Irma, has completed all work. There was some damage to concrete pathways and they will be replacing all sections damaged.

The Horticulture staff has started to cut back cold damaged plant material.

The annual cutbacks of roses in the Rose Garden will continue through the first week of March.

The Horticulture staff will begin the preparations for the annual plant sale.

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.

Michael Morsberger will be the liaison for Horticulture and Jason Kelly will be the liaison for Marketing and Special Events.

EDUCATION:

Michael Provenzale reported from Sandi Linn,

Tours:

January 2018 - 5 tours; 146 people; **January 2017** - 12 tours, 387 people

Classes:

January 2018 - 11 classes, 186 attending; **January 2017** - 13 classes, 150 attending

Plant Clinic:

January 2018 - 4 days, with 1 visitor; **January 2017** - 4 days, with 12 visitors

Even though the Nature Connects exhibit opened in January, the first month was slower with school groups compared to the Dinosaur Invasion exhibit last year. I learned from colleagues at the History Center that their fieldtrips were lower also. It seems schools may still be catching up from the time missed due to Hurricane Irma.

We introduced our new Invincible Invertebrate program for visiting school groups in January, in addition to a macramé and LEGO Pinch Pot classes in conjunction with Super Awesome Cool Pottery.

LEU HOUSE MUSEUM:

Isaiah Cottle reported from Toni Ashman,

The Leu House Museum was closed 21 days, September 9 thru 30, 2017 due to Hurricane Irma and remains closed indefinitely due to damage sustained from the storm.

While the museum remains closed Virginia Leedy, Lyn Henderson and Linda Peattie have kept up monthly team building activities with some of the museum volunteers visiting Orange County Regional History Museum, Fort Christmas, Waterhouse Residence Museum and a presentation by Eric Schmidt on how Leu Gardens' looked when the Leu's were in residence. The next field trip is scheduled for March 18, with the museum staff planning a walking tour of the historic area of downtown Orlando.

MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & GRANTS:

Jennifer Lombardo reported from Tracy Micciche,

Events in Review

- **Connect with Nature Day** on January 28 sold 47 memberships with over 1,300 in total attendance. We received the most positive reviews than any other family fun day events.
- **Movie Night** on February 2 featured the movie **"Groundhog Day."** There was attendance of 833. The movie cost was covered by the grant. Revenue of \$3,488.04.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on February 5 had attendance of 353.
- **Valentine's Concert** on February 14 featured one band Ricky & the Buzzcatz performing at the floral clock. There was attendance of 1,118. Cost of \$1,441.64 (the grant covered band and advertising). Revenue of \$15,760.00.

Upcoming Events

- **Movie Night** is on Friday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. will feature the movie **"The LEGO Movie."** The cost is \$6 for adults and free for Garden members.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on March 5, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m. This free event is sponsored by Kids Urgent Care.

- **Plant Sale** is on Saturday and Sunday, March 10 & 11, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free admission all weekend. Over 50 vendors selling a variety of plants, outdoor accessories and great food.

Marketing

CBS Radio included the Valentine's Concert in their Sun Spots for no charge.

Playground Magazine promoted Connect with Nature Day and February's movie through their online promotions.

We have doubled in Twitter followers and have increased our follower on Instagram by 1,000.

We are approaching 18,000 followers on Facebook.

Nature Connects has been receiving great reviews on Trip Advisor and Leu Gardens' Facebook.

State of Florida will be promoting the March of Museums which includes Leu Gardens.

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:

Danielle Montoya reported from Colin Worley,

- **January 2018 Membership:** New 267, Renew 317, Upgrade 8, Downsize 6
- **January 2017 Membership:** New 415, Renew 248, Upgrade 9, Downsize 10

January 2018 Paid Membership total was 4,906, compared to **January 2017** Paid Membership total of 5,341.

There were 15 complimentary memberships in **January 2018** and 20 in **January 2017**.

NEW BUSINESS: **None.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Bowden updated the board on the open Assistant Director's position.

Danielle Montoya and Isaiah Cottle will be on the nominating committee to select Leu's next chair and vice chair.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Jennifer Lombardo and seconded by Danielle Montoya that the meeting be adjourned at 8:49 a.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2018.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary