

**HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD**  
**March 28, 2018 Minutes**

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by Robert Bowden, Executive Director, at 7:50 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **5 meetings, 1 cancelled** for year-to-date for 2017-18 fiscal year)

Isaiah Cottle, (4/1)

Danielle Montoya, (5/0)

Jason Kelly, (2/0)

Michael Morsberger, (2/0)

Jennifer Lombardo, (4/1)

Michael Provenzale, (5/0)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:**

Camara Williams, (4/1) Vice Chair

**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 Jason Kelly to approve the February 28, 2018 Harry P. Leu Board minutes with a correction in the "Trustees Present" section of Danielle Montoya's attendance record changed from (3/0) to (4/0). There was no further discussion. It was approved by all with the attendance correction.**

**Jennifer Lombardo arrived at 7:52 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

Robert Bowden reported on the February 2018 Leu Attendance reports.

**Michael Morsberger arrived at 7:54 a.m.**

Special Events was attendance was less this year, the Valentine's concert was on Wednesday, February 14 with one band performing, last year the concert was on Saturday, February 14 with three bands performing. February 2018 classes and tours numbers are ahead of February 2017 numbers with 382 more people. February 2018 overall visitor attendance had 4,856 less visitors compared to last year.

**It was moved by Danielle Montoya and seconded by Michael Provenzale to approve Leu's February 2018 Attendance report. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.**

**REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:**

Robert Bowden reported on February 2018 Revenue and Expense reports.

Jennifer Lombardo questioned if expenses were consistently higher in a budget area if the City would adjust the budget with more funding.

**It was moved by Isaiah Cottle and seconded by Jennifer Lombardo to approve Leu's February 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 historical Leu House Museum. Some artifacts and furniture are being packed and stored in the archives and storage. Asbestos was limited to the caulking around the windows.

The stormwater drainage pipe installation will begin soon and the construction will impact the Gardens for approximately one year. The Tropical Stream Garden, south parking lot and the entrance to the gardens will be affected. As part of the project, an exfiltration system will be installed at the grassy area south of Garden House and will become a usable rental space.

Mr. Bowden shared a congratulatory letter from Governor Rick Scott recognizing Leu Gardens as one of Orlando Business Journal's list of top tourist attractions.

Thank you letters were sent by Mayor Dyer to Grandiflora Nursery, Big Trees Plantation, Superior Trees, Tropic Traditions, Halfmoon Growers and Slay's Trees for their donation of 100 trees to help in reforesting the gardens after Hurricane Irma.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**HORTICULTURE:**

*Michael Morsberger 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 and will be ready for sod soon.

The City's Facilities department will be painting the new trellis soon.

GroundTek, the contractor performing the tree and debris cleanup from Hurricane Irma, has replaced all the broken sections of concrete and are officially finished with the cleanup.

Leu's annual plant sale was a success and the horticulture staff is to be commended for a job well done. A traffic safety meeting is planned for late June to discuss the event.

The horticulture staff continues to cut back cold damaged plants as needed.

**EDUCATION:**

*Michael Provenzale reported from Sandi Linn,*

**Tours:**

**February 2018** - 17 tours; 891 people; **February 2017** - 17 tours, 541 people

**Classes:**

**February 2018** - 21 classes, 250 attending; **February 2017** - 14 classes, 218 attending

**Plant Clinic:**

**February 2018** - 3 days, with 8 visitors; **February 2017** - 4 days, with 11 visitors

Tours picked up significantly in February. Everyone loves the LEGOs®. A new Girl Scout Gardening Badge program was introduced in February. The girls complete several activities to earn their badge. We hope to have volunteers teach it because once we promote it through the Citrus Council Girl Scout office we will have many requests. New classes added in February included: Flower Yoga, Macramé for adults, LEGO® Creature Build for kids and a LEGO® Build for adults (through Mad Science) and a Home School Origami class.

**MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & GRANTS:**

*Jason Kelly reported from Tracy Micciche,*

**Events in Review**

- **Movie Night** on March 2 featured the movie **"The LEGO® Movie."** There was attendance of 733. The movie cost was \$378.00. Revenue of \$2,241.52.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on March 5 had attendance of 238.
- **Plant Sale** on March 10 and 11, with attendance of 15,336 visitors the highest attended plant sale.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m. This free event is sponsored by Kids Urgent Care.
- **Movie Night** is on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 p.m. will feature the movie **"Rogue One."** The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children and free for Garden members.
- **Boots & Blues Concert** is on Saturday, April 14 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Visitors can enjoy an amazing evening of country, blues and Americana music throughout the gardens. Ticket costs are \$15 general admission, \$10 for Leu Members (members may purchase up to 4 tickets per membership) and Day Of tickets are \$20 for everyone.
- **Seed Swap** is on Wednesday, April 18 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your extra seeds and swap for other seeds you want to try. It is free. We will have our horticulture experts on hand to answer your questions.

**Marketing**

WhereTravel.com highlighted Leu Gardens has one of 15 Unforgettable Spring Wedding Venues in America.

Birdsandblooms.com highlighted the Nature Connects® exhibit.

Otownfunnow.com highlighted the Plant Sale.

**MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

*Danielle Montoya reported from Colin Worley,*

- **February 2018 Membership:** New 388, Renew 408, Upgrade 5, Downsize 5
- **February 2017 Membership:** New 447, Renew 375, Upgrade 9, Downsize 7

**February 2018** Paid Membership total was 4,976, compared to **February 2017** Paid Membership total of 5,664.

There were 9 complimentary memberships in **February 2018** and 18 in **February 2017**.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**It was moved by Jennifer Lombardo and seconded by Isaiah Cottle to approve the Winter Exhibit “Ribbit II” for 2018-19 (exhibition dates are November 1, 2018 thru January 31, 2019) at a cost of \$50,000 funded primarily by sponsors and the Friends of Leu Gardens. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.**

Due to the State of Florida budget cuts, there are no available grants at this time.

**It was moved by Jennifer Lombardo and seconded by Michael Morsberger to suspend Free First Mondays’ admissions in November 2018, December 2018 and January 2019. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The nominating committee of Danielle Montoya and Isaiah Cottle recommended Camara Williams as Chair and Michael Provenzale as Vice Chair for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

All Leu Board members accepted the nominating committee’s recommendation. There was no discussion. It was approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Danielle Montoya and seconded by Michael Morsberger that the meeting be adjourned at 8:58 a.m. There was no discussion. It was approved by all.**

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2018.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary