

## **HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD**

### **May 23, 2018 Minutes**

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 23, 2018, at Leu Gardens.

**The meeting was called to order by Camara Williams, Chair, at 7:49 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** (12 meetings scheduled; **7 meetings, 1 cancelled** for year-to-date for 2017-18 fiscal year)

Camara Williams, (6/1) Chair

Jason Kelly, (4/0)

Michael Provenzale, (7/0) Vice Chair

Danielle Montoya, (7/0)

Michael Morsberger, (3/1)

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:**

Jennifer Lombardo, (5/2)

Isaiah Cottle, (5/2)

**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 April 25, 2018 Harry P. Leu Gardens Board minutes.** There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

#### **ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

Robert Bowden reported on the April 2018 Leu Attendance reports.

**Michael Morsberger arrived at 7:53 a.m.**

The board discussed the April 2018 Attendance Report. The number of weddings, facility rentals and classes increased over last year totals.

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

#### **REVENUE AND EXPENSE REPORTS:**

Robert Bowden reported on April 2018 Revenue and Expense reports.

Gift shop sales, education, facility rentals and membership revenues are performing better than last year.

Discussion ensued by the board on revenue and expense reports.

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Michael Morsberger to approve Leu's April 2018 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:**

**It was moved by Michael Provenzale and seconded by Michael Morsberger to cancel June 27, 2018 Harry P. Leu Gardens Board meeting.** There was no discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

It was noted the next scheduled Harry P. Leu Gardens Board meeting will be on July 25, 2018.

Mr. Bowden discussed the Stormwater Pipe Project and the work completion estimate of 9 months.

The Leu House Museum restoration work continues.

Michael Morsberger will review the grant material with Mr. Bowden and Tracy Micciche.

There is no change in the vacancy of the Assistant Director's position.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**HORTICULTURE:**

*Michael Morsberger reported from Eric Sondgeroth,*

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

Work continues in the Southern Garden formerly the Citrus Grove area to prep for new plantings.

The Horticulture staff has been prepping the gardens for the stormwater pipe project. Plant material has been removed to save and/or use elsewhere in the gardens. A contractor was hired to save 21 trees and palms. These will be healed in so they can be replanted in the Tropical Stream garden.

The Horticulture staff replaced sod in locations worn by heavy foot traffic from the Nature Connects exhibit. The turf in and around the gardens was fertilized.

**EDUCATION:**

*Michael Provenziale reported from Sandra Linn,*

**Tours:**

**April 2018** - 27 tours; 986 people; **April 2017** - 30 tours, 943 people

**Classes:**

**April 2018** - 25 classes, 485 attending; **April 2017** - 11 classes, 135 attending

Included in the class count numbers are 3 visiting groups requesting Invincible Invertebrates classroom presentations.

**Plant Clinic:**

**April 2018** - 4 days, with 19 visitors; **April 2017** - 4 days, with 14 visitors

The LEGO® tours continued to be popular in April. Ms. Linn presented Invincible Invertebrate programs to two school groups and one weekend fieldtrip group. The first Garden Basket station was introduced in the gardens. These are interactive stations with specific themes to engage our guests. The first one is designed for young children and is titled "Where does our food come from?" It includes an interactive game, wooden vegetables to cut, a root viewer growing root vegetables, and a container of live composting worms. In April, Colin Worley and Ms. Linn promoted a Leu table at the Valencia Earth Day celebration and talked to approximately 200 students and faculty members. The Home School class in April was a Wonderful Wild Wetlands.

**MARKETING, SPECIAL EVENTS & GRANTS:**

*Jason Kelly reported from Tracy Micciche,*

**Events in Review**

- **Plant Sale** on March 10 and 11 had record-breaking attendance of 15,336 guests. The cost was \$6,199.64 and Revenue of \$21,873.01.
- **Movie Night** on May 4 featured the movie "**Breathe**" with attendance of 389 and movie cost of \$413.00 and revenue of \$998.54.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** on May 7 had attendance of 248.
- **Mother's Day** on Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> was well attended and the rain held off for the day.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Movie Night** is on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 p.m. will feature the movie "**Jumanji Welcome to the Jungle.**" The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children and free for Garden members.
- **Story Time at Leu Gardens** is on June 4<sup>th</sup>, the first Monday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m. This free event is sponsored by Kids Urgent Care.
- **Father's Day** is on Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Garden will celebrate Dads with free daytime garden admissions.

**Summer Exhibit**

The Gardens summer exhibit "Enchanted Fairy Doors" featuring 15 fairy doors will open June 30 thru September 23.

**Marketing**

FloridaRental.com featured Leu Gardens in their article about the most beautiful gardens in Florida on the website: <https://www.floridarentals.com/blog/floridas-most-beautiful-botanical-gardens/>

Mr. Williams suggested reaching out to various groups and organizations for Garden House facility rentals.

**MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS:**

***Danielle Montoya reported from Colin Worley,***

- **April 2018 Membership:** New 293, Renew 217, Upgrade 6, Downsize 5, lapsed 385
- **April 2017 Membership:** New 309, Renew 152, Upgrade 6, Downsize 1, lapsed 411

**April 2018** Paid Membership total was 5,143, compared to **April 2017** Paid Membership total of 5,503.

There were 13 complimentary memberships in **April 2018** and 7 in **April 2017**.

The top 3 Leu Gardens' membership levels are Household with 3,712, Senior with 810 and Individuals with 395.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ms. Montoya noted Mr. Williams had a great idea but the gardens need more staff in order to implement.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Danielle Montoya and seconded by Jason Kelly that the meeting be adjourned at 8:47 a.m. There was no discussion. It was approved by all.**

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

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary