

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD
July 24, 2024 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting in-person on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at Leu Gardens. **The meeting was called to order by James Whited, Chair, at 7:46 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: [12 meetings scheduled; **(8 Held, 2 Cancelled)** year-to-date for 2023-24 fiscal year]
James Whited, (8/0) Chair Paul Oppedisano, (7/1)
Adilia Richemond, (5/3) Vice Chair Gabrielle Russon, (8/0)
Richard McCaffrey, (4/1)

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Audrey Jones, (6/2) Angela Territo, (6/2)

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer D'hollander, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary, Harry P. Leu Gardens

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- May 22, 2024 Leu Board Minutes (**Attachment**)
- Financial Reports May 2024 and June 2024 (**Attachments**)
- Horticulture May 2024 and June 2024 Reports (**Attachments**)
- Education May 2024 and June 2024 Reports (**Attachments**)
- Membership and Volunteers May 2024 and June 2024 Reports (**Attachments**)
- Events and Marketing May 2024 and June 2024 Reports (**Attachments**)
- Facility and Rentals May 2024 and June 2024 Reports (**Attachments**)

The Leu Gardens Board reviewed the items under Approval of the Consent Agenda.

Paul Oppedisano pulled the Membership and Volunteers reports from the Consent Agenda.
Adilia Richemond pulled the Facility & Rentals reports from the Consent Agenda.

It was moved by Adilia Richemond and seconded by Gabrielle Russon to approve the Consent Agenda items for May 2024 and June 2024 except for the Membership, and the Facility and Rentals reports. There was no discussion. It was approved by all.

Discussion ensued on the Membership and Volunteers reports. Clarification on the "Membership Information" and the "Membership Count" areas of the report for May 2024 and June 2024 will be verified at the next board meeting.

Membership fees along with member benefits and eliminating some categories will be updated at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on the Facility and Rentals reports. Jennifer D'hollander reviewed and updated the Board on the various facility projects pictured in the reports. Sidewalk repairs and installed new sidewalks were completed for safety throughout the gardens.

Discussion ensued on the Admission Desk area renderings pictured in the reports. Discussion ensued on an admission kiosk, a membership/concierge desk and digital boards providing information to visitors in the lobby area of the Welcome Center

Ms. D'hollander updated the Board on Foxtail Marketplace & Café opening date of September 10. Discussion ensued on discounts for members, and special seasonal discounts during the year. A grand opening is not planned currently.

It was moved by Adilia Richemond and seconded by Richard McCaffrey to approve the Consent Agenda item Facility and Rentals May 2024 and June 2024 reports after discussion. There was no further discussion. It was approved by all.

Discussion ensued on displaying art and public art in the Welcome Center.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

- A. May 2024 and June 2024 Attendance Update (**Attachments**)
Ms. D'hollander noted family friendly exhibits like past Dino exhibits are very successful at the Gardens.
- B. Rose Garden Update
Ms. D'hollander noted to the Board on the installation of more roses in the Rose Garden. Pressure washing of the bricks and pathways. Charla Glaze, Horticultural Specialist, has joined as a member the Historical Rose Plant Society and has already attended a conference with the organization.
- C. Staffing Update
Ms. D'hollander updated the Board and thanked Eric Schmidt, Botanical Records Specialist, for his tenure as the Interim Horticultural Manager since October 2023. His tenure as ended, and the process to find a Horticultural Manager will continue.
- D. Entry Walk Entrance Design
The Board loved the Fairy Doors Exhibit's whimsical "Mushrooms" display located at the Tropical Garden's entrance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Approve Fiscal Year 2024-25 Board Meeting Dates:
The Board discussed the meeting dates for 2024-25.

October 25, 2024(In-Person)	February 26, 2025 (Virtual)	June 25, 2025 (Virtual)
November 20, 2024 (Virtual)	March 26, 2025 (Virtual)	July 23, 2025 (In-Person)
December 18, 2024 (Virtual)	April 23, 2025 (In-Person)	August 27, 2025 (Virtual)
January 22, 2025 (In-Person)	May 28, 2025 (Virtual)	September 24, 2025 (Virtual)

It was moved by Paul Oppedisano and seconded by Richard McCaffrey to approve the 2024-25 Leu Board meeting dates. There was no further discussion. **It was approved by all as presented.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Strategic Plan Update
Ms. D'hollander presented the draft Strategic Plan to the Board. Discussion ensued on the draft Strategic Plan.
- B. Master Plan
Caron & Coyle, Inc. firm was approved by City Council and was awarded recommendation for the RQS24-0164 Master Planning Services for Harry P. Leu Gardens. Cost negotiations are starting and will need to be approved by City Council. Discussion ensued on the Master Plan.

Discussion of grants and funding ensued.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Applied for Florida Division of Arts and Culture 2025-2026 General Program Grant, a \$150,000 request supporting all organization operations, via the City of Orlando.
- B. Applied for Florida Division of Historical Resources, a small matching grant, a \$50,000 request to support assessment and maintenance plan creation for historic buildings on site.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to conduct, **the meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m. It was moved by Adilia Richemond and seconded by Paul Oppedisano.** There was no discussion. It was approved by all.

The next virtual Harry P. Leu Gardens Board meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2024.