

MINUTES
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Zoom Webinar | Wednesday, February 2, 2022 5:15 P.M.

I. Call to Order at 5:16 pm by Nell McConahay

Present: Nell McConahey, Paulette Schirmer, Patricia Harris, Rose Evans, Peter Froehlich,

Absent: Ed Buyarski, Kristin Bartlett, Deborah Rudis, Sarah Dolan

Staff Present: Ginger Hudson, Arboretum Manager; Hunter Huddlestun, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None.

III. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None.

IV. Approval of Minutes –

A. Wednesday, November 10, 2021: P.Harris moves to approve minutes, no objection.
Minutes adopted.

V. New Business –

A. 2021 Annual Report: [See Annual Report]

P.Schirmer-I'll move to approve the annual report for HRC.

R.Evans-I second the approval.

B. 15th Anniversary:

P.White (Friends of JOAAB)-In July we hope to have an exhibit at the City Museum. We'd like to have an opening reception with memorabilia and maps on how to get there. Then on the 28th have an all gardeners picnic with live music and food. Friends of JOA has a meeting coming up and I will have more specifics after that.

C. Winter Weather effects: [See Managers Report]

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Residence water/internet update: [See Managers Report]

G.Hudson-We have moved ahead with the unrestricted funds with the water and internet for this upcoming year's budget. Hopefully that will go through with the Manager's office.

VII. Committee Liaison and Staff Reports

A. Chair Report: *Included in packet*

B. Manager's Report: *Included in packet.*

C. Friends of JOA:

P.White (Friends of JOAAB)-We are planning on a development of educational coordinator. They would coordinate children's programs as well as adult programs.

D. Other Business: None

Adjournment – 6:05p.m. *Having no further business before the Board.*

Respectfully submitted by Hunter Huddlestun, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant I, 4/04/22.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Manager's Report to the Advisory Board

February 2, 2022

- Budget procedure, (built Dec-Feb) and use of nonrestricted funds in FY23

JOA requested \$13,000 of the endowment's nonrestricted funds be added to the FY23 budget.

These funds will purchase a whole-house water filter device, replacing the water softener.

They will also go toward replacing the copper and lead plumbing with Pex pipe.

JOA also requested \$5,500 of the endowment's nonrestricted funds for installation of satellite internet service. CBJ MIS said this works with their operations. Satellite internet will increase bandwidth, which should enable me to give or interact with online presentations.

- Winter weather effects

JOA purchased a 44" snow blower attachment for \$2,000 for the onsite John Deere tractor mower. The attachment was missing a part on arrival, my husband Ken located a fabricator in-town to make the part and avoid shipping. It is a challenge to get up over the crest of the driveway. I use the walk-behind Honda snow blower to clear a path, then the larger machine gets up and clears the parking lot much faster than the Honda. It arrived just in time for the 41 inches of snow that eventually blanketed the grounds. The John Deere attachment is powerful enough to handle the berm created by DOT at the drive entry, so far. This system replaced a front loader that the previous manager used to get on loan from P&R.

The thick snow arrived before the deep freeze and that is fantastic for the garden beds. However, as with everyone in town, it became a challenge to move and store snow. When the temperatures rose and it began raining in January, rain and run-off from Pt. Caroline Trail into the garden at the entry plaza created a large pond. This happened three times, as of January 27. Because of the surrounding snow depth, the pond was not able to drain for days at a time. Some beds have been soaked and the ground thawed in that area. I can only wait and see how the water might affect those plantings.

Paths, the parking lot, the driveway, and the Pt. Caroline Trail have been icy for several weeks.

P&R crew graveled the parking lot and driveway well. So far no slipping.

In winter wildlife news, a porcupine was observed waddling in circles on the snow between the residence and the garage two days in a row.

A Sitka deer was seen eating lichen out of the birch by the gardeners shed, two days in a row.

The second day it leapt over the 40-inch high berm of snow at the walkway.

One 7-inch diameter, dead tree fell across the entry path about 15 yards from the entry gate. No one was on the path at the time. The trunk was cut and moved from blocking the path. CBJ maintenance installed and re-piped an above ground heating fuel oil tank. Decommission of the underground tank was postponed until this summer.

- FJOA ARPA Grant plans

FJOA received an ARPA (federal American Rescue Plan Act) Easy Grant of \$3,500 in October 2021 to use toward upgrading JOAs online resources, to be spent by Sept 2022.

- 15th Anniversary plans/FJOA

Mother's Day, Day of Primula, Alaska Public Gardens day- SEAL Trust will be in attendance, community garden groups picnic, Tidepooling and Seaweed identification class, BugDay; Special installation and FJOA docents at the City Museum

- Hours of operation and staffing

Reduced winter hours, mid-October through mid-March open Friday – Sunday 9a – 4p have worked well. I have not received any negative feedback. Since the weather has been so extreme this winter, even Point Caroline visitation is low. My normal schedule remains Wednesday – Sunday 9a-5pm. In order to meet with other P&R employees and to utilize faster internet, weather permitting, I continue to travel to the City Hall P&R office on Wednesdays and some Thursdays.

I have reached out to one past seasonal worker to see if they want to return. When I return from the NWFGF mid-Feb it will be time to start the seasonal hiring process.

- Outreach:

Interview on KTOO Juneau Afternoon with Rhonda McBride, January 25. Discussed the effects of climate change on gardening at JOA; upcoming presentation at NWFGF; plans for JOA's 15th Anniversary in coordination with FJOA

On February 9, I will be part of a panel speaking on gardening for climate change resilience at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle. I am representing JOA and its maritime environment. On February 10, I will have a stand-alone presentation on Alaska hardy plants that may survive PNW gardens, tested at JOA. The Wednesday Seminar description here:

<https://gardenshow.com/seminars/schedule/wed>

Thank you for your support of the arboretum.

Submitted by Ginger Hudson