

MINUTES
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Mendenhall Library Conference Room
Wednesday, February 4, 2015
5:15 P.M.

- I. **Call to Order at 5:20 p.m. by Chair Ed Buyarski.** Members Present: Peter Froehlich, Pat Harris, Barb Murray, Deb Rudis and Bridget Weiss;
Absent: Shawn Eisele; Kim Garner; Nell McConahey
Staff Present: Merrill Jensen, J-O Arboretum Manager, K. Duncan, P&R Director, Brent Fischer, P&R MP&L Superintendent, Fran Compton, P&R Admin. Asst.

Welcome to our newest members Nell McConahey and Bridget Weiss and to Mr. Duncan the new Director of Parks & Recreation.
- II. Agenda Changes – P. Harris requested that Commercial Use be added.
- III. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items - none
- IV. **Approval of Minutes - Wednesday, October 29, 2014.** Corrections to Minutes were handed out to include spelling of Mr. Buyarski's name, adding "Multipurpose/education" next to building in the Friends report, correct spelling of Foraker's name, and adding "Alaska Permanent Dividend Fund's" before the words "Pick, Click, Give". **Motion made by P. Harris, second from B. Murray to accept the Minutes of the Jensen-Olson Arboretum of October 29, 2014 with corrections. No objections, motion passed.**
- V. **Unfinished Business – Commercial Use**
P. Harris: CBJ staff was going to have the original conservation easement reviewed to see if we could work allow some commercial use touring into the Arboretum. I am requesting a follow up since neither staff nor members had any update information.
- VI. New Business – none.
- VII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports
 - a. **Chair Report – E. Buyarski:** Passing out the Annual Report to the Assembly (attached) that he drafted for member review and comment that will be presented at the 2/23/15 Human Resources Committee.
 - b. **Manager Report – M. Jensen:** Passing out a written report (attached). There is a discussion going on whether to withdraw the endowment fund that the city is investing to turn over to the Friends of the Arboretum for investment management.
K. Duncan: If it is going well we don't have to do anything.

Discussion

Mr. Duncan: P&R staff will review with CBJ Finance Director all the legal documents to find the best possible placement for the endowment. If the goal is to build the endowment we may not be able to withdraw funds each year if money is transferred.

P. Harris: We would like additional information of what we would be responsible for if "Friends" group manages, the Arboretum maintenance costs, salaries?

Discussion about present state of garden.

- c. **Friends of JOA Report – P. Harris:** Foraker predevelopment – group is going ahead with application for assistance with new building design. There is another meeting on 2/9/15 at 5:30 in the Downtown Library, small conference room; The Friends will have an annual meeting in late February or early March. There was a "First Friday" photo exhibit of Arboretum photos at KTOO this past month. PSAs were sent out and the photos were on view all month with our brick cards and membership information.

VIII. Other Business - none

- IX. Adjournment: Being no other business before the Board, **President Buyarski adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted on May 27, 2015, Fran Compton, P&R Administrative Assistant

February 4, 2015

To: CBJ Human Resources Committee and Assembly

From: Ed Buyarski, Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board

Subject: Chairman's Report to the CBJ Assembly For 2014

There is ongoing concern about visitor parking/safety-possible cooperation between DOT and CBJ to expand parking along Glacier Highway.

Board members have assisted the Friends of the Jensen Olson Arboretum in fundraising efforts through the May Plant sale and Wine tasting events. Funds are hoped to go toward planning, design and construction of a multi-use educational building to replace the existing garage.

There is concern over CBJ budget issues and their possible effects on Parks and Recreation and the Arboretum. Building maintenance issues are another concern.

Summer 2014 weather did dampen spirits but much enthusiasm was seen and heard from local and out of town visitors about the flowers and garden displays. Minimal irrigation was necessary after June 1st!

Three new members will join the Board this year to help carry on Caroline's dream for the ongoing educational efforts at the Arboretum.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum
Manager's Report to the Advisory Board
February 4, 2015

- Attended the annual Alaska Invasive Species Conference in Anchorage the last week in October. This is the first time attended since 2011 due to lack of travel funds.
- Gazebo plans finalized with Rotary; construction is planned for spring'15
- Missed APGA Collections Conference in Washington D.C. due to registration closing before we could get travel documents compiled
- Arboretum articles written and photos provided for the American Primrose Society's (APS) *Quarterly* and the American Public Garden Association's (APGA) *Public Garden*. These both should be coming out this month
- Fall garden clean up chores around the ground
- Ron King from City Engineering and Rotary brought Joe Buck from DOT to look at our parking situation. Joe Buck agreed that we need something done and will move forward with DOT permitting. Hopefully, we'll see a parking lot constructed in '16 or '17
- Seed of *Penstemon* packaged and sent to a botanic garden in Russia in exchange for seed wild collected from them in Crimea
- Tulips potted up and put in cold storage to bloom for next spring
- New work station/office space set up – new furniture, computer and scanner to house our new plant data base purchased with Rasmuson Foundation Tier I grant monies
- IrisBG acquired and installed on new computer. Our existing plant data base was migrated into IrisBG
- Mower taken into City Shop for repair
- Winter pruning during the rare January sun breaks
- New seed has been arriving all through January from Scotland (The Meconopsis Group and Scottish Rock Garden Club), China (wild collected by Bjørnar Olsen), Russia, (Taurida V.I.Vernadsky National University Botanic Garden in Simferopol), the Khumbu and Annapurna regions of Nepal (wild collected by Chris Chadwell), APS and NARGS
- Annual budget work – no losses in operational funds due to City financial woes
- Losing Will Clausen as seasonal gardener; has taken a full time, benefited position as Head Gardener at the Chase Garden in Orting, WA. His replacement will probably be Carrie Goodbrake from the City's Landscape crew. We wish Will good luck in his new adventure
- Part of the City conversation as what to do about the demise of SAGA and their use of the Eagle Valley Lodge; possible Arboretum use for weddings/educational purposes.