

MINUTES
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, March 27th, 2013
City Hall Room 224, 5:15PM

I. Call to order: 5:15 p.m.

- A. Members Present: Ed Buyarski, Patricia Harris, Kate Walters, Iris Korhonen-Penn, Kathy Thatcher; Deborah Rudis, Peter Froehlich
- B. Members Absent: Kim Garner, Patty Newman, Barb Murray
- C. Staff Present: Merrill Jensen, Fran Compton

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Buyarski: Chris Mertl volunteered to do a master plan for the arboretum (gratis) if committee is interested. Committee members expressed an interest and discussed meeting with Mr. Mertl. Also suggested a combined meeting with the Friends of the Arboretum Board to provide input and hear his suggestions. Mr. Jensen would like to see a Conservatory with education building where the generator shed is at now. Mr. Jensen will contact him to set up a meeting with Mr. Mertl.
- B. Annual Meeting/Potluck with Friends of the Arboretum: discussion of potential dates; April/May timeframe, place to be determined.
- C. Mr. Froehlich looking for more involvement from school district. Discussion of school involvement, school inquiries and requests. Request to Ms. Compton to verify Committee member attendance to meet requirements for Board membership and report at the next meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Ms. Korhonen-Penn motion, Ms. Rudis second, no objection, so moved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - December 12, 2012; and corrections noted, Ms. Rudis motion to approve as corrected; no objection, so moved.

V. CHAIR REPORT – Mr. Buyarski: no report other than reporting Mr. Mertl’s offer. 4/1-4/10/13 he is out of town. Mr. Jensen will order new bricks this week and Mr. Buyarski can pick them up on 4/9.

VI. MANAGER’S REPORT - Mr. Jensen: seeds for Primroses received end of December, 105 new species planted. Mr. Buyarski: with national report do you just report what survives after a season? Mr. Jensen: seeds that germinated last year and will be entered (32 species) this year.

Proposal to Rasmussen is being worked. There is a 2 month process. Fiscal Year-2014 budget approved, Mr. Schaaf sat with B. Bartholomew and they agreed to the proposed budget. He

anticipates the Arboretum will be self-supporting and sustainably funded by Fiscal Year 2024-25. Rotary looking for a project, suggested gate at top of the lane. Rotary approached DOT and they said “No it is in their Right Of Way”. Ron King is working with DOT on plans for parking area with access gate. Discussion of funding.

Mr. Buyarski: this might be connected, the new road Lena to the Fire Station – DOT will grind up asphalt next year. The arboretum might be able to get recycled asphalt if things happen in a timely fashion. Discussion. Mr. Froehlich: Can Mr. Mertl’s plans be connected to the parking lot and a sign? Mr. Buyarski: He will let his contact know about Mr. Mertl.

Mr. Jensen: He made a Glacier Center Fireside Chat presentation on JOA and was well attended. Friends of the Arboretum handed out brochures and brick applications.

Ms. Thatcher suggested making a video of Merrill’s presentation that could be shown in video format at the Arboretum or on-line. Discussion. Mr. Jensen stated he would be giving a program at APS program. Ms. Rudis complimented Mr. Jensen on the presentation.

Mr. Jensen: Has a new brochure in the works, should get a final proof tomorrow and have printed shortly and make them available via Visitors Bureau and at the Arboretum. In February he looked through and annotated is photo files. He is refurbishing benches, 2 done and 1 in process and 1 to finish. Did some gardening when the snow disappeared, cleared up leaves, and bitter cress and chickweed burned out. New summer gardener hired, Will Clausen, working as an intern, has some garden experience with NE Wildflower Society in MA. Mr. Jensen put out fish fertilizer early and hopeful it’s aired enough and may not be bear bait. First Primrose Bloomed on 4th of March (6 weeks early) got snowed on but popped right out (on slope behind Rhododendrons). He is working on the Primrose Society presentation in May, there will be 2 talks and he is leading a roundtable.

Ms. Rudis: any more news about putting up a webcam? Mr. Jensen: Yes, need to check it out and where it will go. Discussion on game cameras.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – none

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Update on plans for the conservatory; Mr. Jensen: The committee member can sit with Mr. Mertl with ideas and see what develops.
- Alaska Public Gardens Day program for the end of May Mr. Jensen has Lupine, quality of seeds not good. Won’t have many plants to give away. No response from Ms. Kerttula for the event May 25th (Memorial weekend). Chris Chadwell, alpine garden speaker, will do two programs date TBA. Public Gardens Day, Arboretum not going to do any extravagant because of parking issues. Will offer hikes and hope for a nice day. Mr. Froehlich: if people come and see how badly parking is needed it could help. Mr. Jensen: He’ll put an article in newspaper and get coverage at KTOO, and Sharon Gaitman’s show. Ms. Rudis suggested Capitol City Weekly and Mr. Buyarski suggested Southeast Living magazine. Mr. Jensen: Anchorage and UA Fairbanks garden visitors will take pictures for Alaska Magazine and he believes they will publish next year. Ms. Rudis: Fairbanks has and Arboretum. Mr. Jensen: Georgeson Botanical Garden.

- Plant Sale: Mr. Froehlich: Ed, and Kathy coordinating with him. Mr. Buyarski: Elfrida Nord, Sandy and Suzanne Williams, master gardeners, also assisting talked to folks at Safeway and now they want a written letter request and insurance. Master Gardeners don't have insurance. Community Garden has insurance for the garden, but MG are not covered; Primrose Society doesn't have insurance. Convenience factor at Carr's is high. Discussed other potentials. Ms. Nord will continue to speak with Safeway management. Will concentrate on advertising, radio and media, it is critical. Friends will have JACC distribute flyers. If advertising is purchased from KINY then they will let us come as guest speakers, etc.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Endowment Committee: no report
- B. Volunteer Committee: Ms. Rudis: contacted someone about website for Friends. No response, she will pursue. Don't have a date for wine tasting yet. Mr. Froehlich: spring or fall? Ms. Rudis: Fall.

X. CORRESPONDENCE - none

XI. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

XII. BOARD COMMENTS - none

XIII. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 19, 2013

XIV. ADJOURNMENT – at 6:20 p.m., Mr. Froehlich motion, so moved.

Respectfully Submitted this 19th day of June, 2013.

Fran Compton, Secretary