

Minutes
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, December 12, 2012
Valley Library Conference Room, 5:15PM

I. Call to Order.

Members Present: Ed Buyarski; Patricia Harris; Kate Walters; Iris Korhonen-Penn;
Kathy Thatcher; Deborah Rudis; Kim Garnero
Staff Present: George Schaaf; Merrill Jensen; Amanda Wilkins

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – moved by Ms. Garnero

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A. September 19th - moved by Ms. Thatcher, with corrections. Seconded by Ms. Rudis.
Approved.

V. CHAIR REPORT – no report

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

The North American Plants Collection Consortium certificate arrived for the Primula collection. Mr. Jensen said he spent time cleaning the vegetable garden and the seaweed mulch is down. Bittercress had taken over and were weeded out. Garlic has been planted, with 5 cultivars planted instead of 3; 2 are from an Oregon collection. The buildings were painted this fall. All were scraped, primed and painted between Sept. 5 and November 7. The color changed to a dark sage green with a cream trim helps fade the buildings into the background. In the spring, the painters will come to do some touchup. A windstorm took out a big branch of the prunus on the southern end of the property. The arboretum exchanged seeds with the American Primrose Society and a commercial grower in Boise. Annual bulb planting was done. There will be more snow drops, trillium and corydalis.

There was a bear and her cubs on the property in early October. They ate all the mountain ashberries off the trees; there wasn't a lot of damage.

The Rotary Club came out and finished the vegetable gate. They are also exploring building and installing a cedar gate at the top of the lane.

Primrose seedlings are tucked in for the winter. They should come through for the spring transplant.

In January, Mr. Jensen will have an article in the American Primrose Society magazine. 2013 APS national convention will be in Worcester, Massachusetts the first week in May. He will give 2 lectures.

The 2012 data base is done. There are now 948 plants; the Arboretum started with 257 plants. For summer 2013, the arboretum will get 5 – 7 yards of soil to reseed with grass.

Mr. Jensen is working on a new brochure. He should have one done in the next month or so.

The first order of seeds were sent to the Scottish Rock Garden Club. They were restricted to 16 choices. The NA Rock Garden goes live on Saturday.

They are trying Gibberellic acid on the seeds to see if there is a difference. It can substantially improve germination. It is a naturally occurring hormone that is in rice. The acid is extremely diluted and the seeds are soaked briefly. Ms. Rudis asked if it is expensive. Mr. Jensen said no. He said the seeds should germinate in 7 – 10 days instead of 2 months.

Mr. Jensen is working on the Rasmussen tier 1 grant. It will be for a Primula data base.

Mr. Jensen was asked to do a fireside chat at the Glacier on the history of the Peterson/Olson girls on March 22. He will speak with people who used to hang out at the homestead.

There will be a new employee for the summer. He worked for AmeriCorps 3 years ago in Juneau and worked for the New England Wildflower Garden last year.

Housing is an issue; they may put him up at the SAGA lodge where he could also do work for them.

Ms. Rudis asked if the seeds are hot pink japonicas. Mr. Jensen said yes. Ms. Rudis asked if Postford White is a japonica. Mr. Buyarski said yes.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – none

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Update on plans for parking improvement

Mr. Schaaf reported that there are plans for the various projects that were funded by the bond. Parks and Recreation is not slated to receive any funding for two years. The projects happening first have matching grants that require immediate action. In FY16, there will be \$975,000 available. In FY 17, there will be over a million and in FY18 there will be under \$800,000. Mr. Schaaf said the arboretum will receive \$75,000. He recommended that the Friends board approach the legislature for funding.

Engineering will have to come out and look at the old road bed. Mr. Buyarski asked if the old alders and trees could be removed easily. Mr. Schaaf said yes, it could be done by staff. Mr. Jensen said there is an elevation change so there will be grading and the DOT will have to say it is good to go.

B. Update on plans for the conservatory

Mr. Jensen said the majority of the funding will be through a Rasmussen Grant. It would be an educational capital project. Mr. Buyarski asked about the design and location. Mr. Jensen said it would be where the current glass house sits. Mr. Buyarski asked if they would propagate lilacs. Mr. Jensen said no. Ms. Korhonen-Penn asked what is the vision for the glass house? Mr. Jensen said they hope to grow aloes and agaves in a corner, bananas and pineapples in another; all should be fine as long as it does not freeze. The structure would have to be heated with

propane to keep the plants at 45 degrees. Mr. Jensen said they looked at UC Berkeley for inspiration. Ms. Garnero asked if would replace the classroom. Mr. Jensen said there would be a future phase replacement. Ms. Walters said Chris Mertl of Corvus Designs had approached her and Mr. Schaaf about working with them to update the comp plan pro bono. Mr. Schaaf said it would be after the new year.

C. Alaska Public Gardens Day program for the end of May

Mr. Jensen said they are planning something different. Last year's program was a subdued celebration as the weather was very bad. Berth Kerttula introduced the legislation for the program and should attend the ceremony. Ms. Rudis asked if it will be Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Jensen said yes; he is thinking of things to do. Ms. Harris suggested music and that Daniel Hobson asked to do it again. Ms. Harris asked if they are thinking of seedlings again. Mr. Jensen said yes, he hopes they overwinter and sprout in the spring. Ms. Harris asked when the master gardeners start? Mr. Jensen they have started. Ms. Harris asked if the fruit trials were started. Mr. Jensen said that two varieties of blueberries are planted, some Aronia, currants (black, white and gooseberry), and honey berries, which is a honeysuckle with berries that will be ready by late June. Ms. Rudis asked what color is the flower. Mr. Jensen said white. He said there were two new varieties of strawberries and black raspberries that the porcupines ate. They will fence them off for the spring. Ms. Rudis asked if the arboretum has a motion camera. Mr. Jensen said it is on the list to purchase. He would like to time lapse the Primula coming in. Ms. Rudis said one was installed behind Riverbend Elementary to create a movie. Mr. Schaaf said he would like to include a webcam for people. He said the JAHC has one that cost \$300 for a "Hi Mom" camera for the tourists. It is wireless and can be placed anywhere.

D. Rasmussen Grant

Already discussed in the manager's report.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Endowment Committee

Mr. Schaaf said the finance department still supports the board's position. He said that it all needs to be finalized through a memo to the manager's office. He said he is still working with Bob Bartholomew on what he wants to write. Ms. Garnero and Ms. Thatcher volunteered to go with Mr. Schaaf and Mr. Jensen to talk with Kim Kiefer.

Ms. Harris asked about commercial use. Mr. Schaaf said there is nothing yet, he has been working on the Auke Lake management policy and has not had a chance to revisit the commercial use issue.

B. Volunteer Committee

Ms. Rudis will be the volunteer liaison to the board. She has nothing to report.

C. Friends Committee

Someone had sent in to become a Pioneer member, but did not send a check.

X. CORRESPONDENCE - none

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

XII. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Harris asked, in regard to the Pioneer member, if he is already a member, could he upgrade to Pioneer? The answer was affirmative. Ms. Harris said one person joined at the Life Level and wanted two prints, was this something that could be offered? Mr. Jensen said this was something that the Friends of the JOA could meet to discuss this.

Mr. Buyarski offered to pick up any ordered bricks in April when he is down south.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

March 6, room 224 5 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Harris moved to adjourn.