

MINUTES
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, February 1, 2012
Assembly Chambers, 5:15PM

I. ROLL CALL: 5:20pm

Members Present: Ed Buyarski, Peter Froehlich, Pat Harris, Kate Walters, Iris Korhonen-Penn, Kathy Thatcher, Deb Rudis, Kim Garnero

Members Absent: Patty Newman

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Parks & Landscape Superintendent; Merrill Jensen, Arboretum Manager; Jessica Beck, Administrative Assistant II

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – none

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Buyarski motioned to approve. Approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. October 26, 2011 – Mr. Buyarski motioned to approve. Approved.

V. CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Harris said she gave the JOAAB Annual Report to the Human Resources Committee. They approved reappointment of her and Mr. Buyarski. Mr. Daniels resigned from the committee leaving a vacancy. Ms. Harris said she will be resigning as Chair of the board because of her involvement with the Friends of the Arboretum group.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Jensen said it is winter and therefore he's been doing all of his indoor work. He's been working on the plant database with the material they got last year. There are 812 entries so far. The database has been sent to BGCI.

The first week in December he went to California for sentinel plant network training. They want people on the ground for early detection of new plant insects and diseases.

He was able to get seaweed mulch down on some of the planting beds. They're still short on seaweed washing up on the beach.

The pathways in the vegetable garden were laid down with shredded alder mulch.

He ordered the new mower. The snow blower has been working great.

In the late fall he begins working on the seed exchanges with different groups. He got a new listing from Italy. The first primroses are already up. They now have 44 new primroses.

The North American Plant Consortium Society wants to know how many plants they have which are hard when there's snow.

They are going to get a white dandelion and a dandelion with red leaves. Also coming are some gentians, metarose, ornamental rhubarb and some rodgersias. He's getting ready to order some new vegetable seeds.

Mr. Schaaf said the Arboretum is included in the sales tax initiative. They're also requesting money in the CIP budget. Mr. Froehlich motioned to send a letter to the Brent Fischer in support of funding for a parking lot at the Arboretum. Approved. Ms. Garnero agreed draft the letter.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – none

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Board Reorganization

Ms. Harris said she resigned as Chair. Mr. Buyarski agreed to step up as the Chair. Approved.

B. Conditional Use Permit Progress

There has been no progress towards getting commercial use at the Arboretum. Mr. Schaaf said he needs to rewrite something that doesn't envision all the variables to send back to the Law Department.

C. Arboretum Budget & Endowment

Mr. Schaaf said Mr. Jensen saved money in the budget by securing a mower with a grant. The biggest issue is where the money for the Arboretum is supposed to come from, either the endowment or the general fund of the city. Brent and Mr. Schaaf met with Craig Duncan, Finance Director. The Finance Department is not intending to inflation proof the endowment. Mr. Schaaf was told that the endowment is vague and all it says is that the endowment is not supposed to pay general city expenses, ie: office supplies at City Hall and salaries for the Finance Department. The Library's endowment is the exact same as the Arboretum's endowment and the Library endowment is not allowed to be used for operating funds of the library. Mr. Schaaf is now putting together a memo to Brent Fischer regarding the funding for the Arboretum.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Endowment Committee: none

B. Volunteer Committee: none

C. Friends of the Arboretum: They will be meeting next week. Ms. Harris suggested giving a discount to members of the Friends of the Arboretum for wine tasting tickets.

X. CORRESPONDENCE – none

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

XII. BOARD COMMENTS –

Mr. Buyarski said the Haines Garden Conference will happen on March 16-18.

XIII. NEXT MEETING – April 23rd, 2012 at the Jorden Creek Mall

XIV. ADJOURNMENT: 6:43pm, Mr. Froehlich motioned to adjourn. Approved.