

## **Arboretum Associates Advisory Board Meeting**

Monday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.

Jack's Creek Conf. Room, Facilities Building

Present: Kris Roby; Sally Greene; Terry Gray; Kayla Casey, Paul Warnick; Joy Fisher, Paul Anders; Nancy Sprague, Cort Northrup, Dave Tank, Bill Bowler, Brian Johnson, Gary Austin, Sammy Matsaw, Yolanda Bisbee, Sydel Samuels

Absent: Jan Leander

Joy moved to approve the minutes from 11/14/16 meeting and Kayla seconded. Motion passed.

### **2017 Plant Sale (May 20<sup>th</sup>)**

Jan was not able to attend because of the roads but sent word that she and Paul put in the plant order including some new "fun" plants.

### **Next Issue of "Arbor Notes"**

Joy has received several articles already. Brian and Ray are working on an article. Paul Anders will work on a piece on water quality issues. The publication will most likely go out in February.

### **Annual Meeting / Arboretum Art Show (April 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Kris got a verbal commitment from Aaron Cordell Johnson to speak at the annual meeting. Kris and Bill will meet with Aaron to discuss details. Suggested length of the presentation will be 20-30 minutes and will relate to art in the arboretum.

### **Arboretum Update**

Paul reported that the webpage needs to be updated. Paul communicated with Matt Williamson, the website manager, who suggested converting the webpage to WordPress. The current website is on an older platform and that creates many issues. Matt estimates that it could cost upwards of \$2000 for him to complete the conversion and update the site. The other option would be to have the webpage converted to the University platform. Paul will check with Brian to see if that is a possibility and how much it would cost. Bill and Kayla volunteered to review the current content.

### **Request by Native Americans to build a sweat lodge in new arboretum**

Sammy Matsaw explained the motivation behind the proposal. The sweat lodge would help the current influx of young Native American undergraduate students relate to their culture

and to not become separated from their identity while at the University. Plants are used as part of the process including cedar, willows and roots. Non-natives would be invited to participate but mentored by those who are familiar with the tradition and process. Yolanda Bisbee reported that different sites were considered but were not as feasible for different reasons. They want a site that is private yet close enough to campus for students to be able to easily access the location. The arboretum was determined to be the most desirable location.

Logistical concerns were addressed:

The main structure will be rebuilt every year as the construction of the lodge is part of the tradition. It would be used at least two times a month and possibly more, usually on the weekend. The number of participants would vary between 12-20. There has been some discussion about constructing a privacy fence of a solid material approximately 6-8 feet high. There would be the need for a water source which could come from either the barn or an older existing well. Religion should not be an issue as the tribes are sovereign nations and the existing land was theirs prior to the existence of the university. No fees would be charged. No money is currently budgeted for the project, but the proposal will be taken to the President once the location is determined.

Discussion followed the presentation. Concern was expressed that any structure should be visually appealing and secure. In particular, open access to a fire pit might be an attractive nuisance to students wanting to use it for a bonfire. Signage explaining the project, process, use of native plants, etc. would be recommended to add to the educational component. It was expressed that other than proximity, Parker Farm might be a better location. Concerns persist that this might open the door to other groups wanting to use the arboretum for specific purposes. Support was expressed to make a sweat lodge part of a larger exhibit of native plants similar to one in existence at the botanical gardens in Montreal.

#### **Old Business:**

No updates on the Scavenger Hunt or gazebo

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. Due to conflicts with various board members, the **next meeting is rescheduled for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.**