Arboretum Associates Board Meeting  
Monday, September 13, 2021  
UI Facilities Large Conference Room and Zoom

Present: Kat Clancy, Kris Roby, Paul Warnick, Joy Fisher, Jan Leander, Harriet Hughes, Bill Bowler, Yvonne Barkley, Erik Anderson, Lucy Falcy, Nancy Sprague  
Absent: Julie Miller

Approval of Minutes  
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting. Motion passed.

Summer Concert  
The concert on July 12 was a big success, with possibly the largest audience ever, and good weather.

Plant Sale  
Jan announced that the plant sale will be held at the Ice Rink location. She already has around 200 plants potted up. Yvonne asked about donating plants that she is digging up. She will check with Jan to see if she has any plants that are likely to sell. Unusual plants are especially welcome. Yvonne offered to grow some plants from seed. Lucy asked what size plants sell. The plant sizes vary from annuals which are generally in 4” pots, to small trees and shrubs. Paul noted that it’s difficult to predict what will sell.

ArborNotes  
Joy encouraged the board to come up with a good, unusual lead story for the next issue. Paul has a potential idea for a story that one of his student workers may be interested in writing. An article about the ponds was also suggested. Joy is also looking for volunteers to write short articles about the summer concert and other Arboretum events. Ideally the next issue of ArborNotes would come out in early December, so the articles would need to be ready by early November.

Arboreta Updates  
Paul presented a slideshow highlighting new developments and challenges over the past several months. A new bench was installed in the northwest corner of the Shattuck Arboretum. A local youth group helped build a trail to the new bench. The barn was repainted this summer. The annual garden bed and sunflower garden were very successful, with Lucy’s help. A number of fall crocuses were dug up and moved to a better spot near the magnolias.

Recent challenges included the extreme heat and drought, along with an irrigation crisis at the same time. Paul was asked to cut back on water usage and made about a 10% reduction in
water use, during the hottest period when he would normally increase water usage. Some hostas were scorched, but most plants survived. On September 1 frost appeared on the grass. A main line irrigation break also had to be repaired. The theft of plant labels continues, with a total of about 60 signs found in the garbage can. Paul has installed a game camera near the kiosk to try to solve the mystery.

The arboretum ponds were a major subject of discussion. The pump to circulate water died during the time of high heat. The water level in the upper pond has dropped to the lowest level Paul has seen it. Parrot’s feather is a rooted plant in the pond that has now become too thick to plow. The lower pond looks much better, with very little Azolla remaining. It’s possible that the snow fences Paul puts up in the fall to limit the leaves entering the pond may be helping. Yvonne suggested consulting Tim Prather about the ponds. Tim had asked what the expectations are for the pond. Paul’s goal would be to have a natural appearing pond with as much existing wildlife as possible, not a chlorinated pool. One option Paul mentioned was to see if a pump could be installed below the outlet of the lower pond to pump water back up to the upper pond to have more volume moving through the system. He’d like to find someone with the expertise needed to help see if this would work.

Other projects included improving the entry to the Arboretum from the golf course parking lot and getting a huge truckload of bark mulch for a reasonable cost.

**New Business**

Paul made a proposal for a new project at Price’s Green in the Shattuck Arboretum, in part due to several recent donations. Instead of adding new benches in the Shattuck, Paul suggested that three picnic tables be installed at Price’s Green, an area constructed in the 1930s to honor C.L. Price, who was Charles Shattuck’s assistant and helped start the Arboretum. A rock with a sign commemorating Price’s work would be installed near the tables. This project is awaiting approval from Facilities. If approved, two of the tables would be paid for by donors whose names would be on plaques on the tables. The board discussed providing funding for the third picnic table. Yvonne moved that the Arboretum Associates purchase the third table, Bill seconded the motion, and all voted to approve.

Progress on the Golf Course Slope Project has stalled. Paul met with Ray Pankopf and others six weeks ago. The sign proposal didn’t meet UI standards because the sign would be parallel to the street instead of perpendicular to it and the donor recognition information can’t be put on the street sign. Ray offered to come up with an alternative proposal, but Paul has not yet received it.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

**Next Meeting** will be on October 11, 2021.