

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Frank Clarke, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Lucy Falcy

Absent: Kat Clancy, Kris Roby, Nancy Zabriskie

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 meeting. Motion passed.

ArborNotes

A revised version of the list of Life Associates on the Donor Roll was created and sent to the donors affected. An insert will also be added to the remaining print copies of *ArborNotes*. Frank is working to ensure that the list of Life Associates will be updated correctly. Yvonne asked for clarification on the process for adding metadata to the PDF version of *ArborNotes* that goes to the UI Library's Archives. This metadata helps improve access and search capabilities of the PDF and includes details like author names and titles of articles. Yvonne volunteered to create the metadata for *ArborNotes*.

Arboreta Updates

Paul provided statistics for donations to the Arboretum received in December over the past several years and noted an encouraging upward trend. He announced that a contract has been awarded to a design team for the Nez Perce Drive Greek Parking Reconfiguration and Rebuild Project. The design process will be conducted next summer and the project may begin in 2025.

Paul has tentatively scheduled a potting party for March 23, 2024, as the annual order is due to arrive on March 18. Fewer annuals were ordered than in past years and many of them will be used for the annual bed in the Arboretum. Paul also ordered seeds for the sunflower forest, including Lemon Cuties.

The Arboretum currently has memberships in the American Public Gardens Association, Botanic Gardens Conservation International, the American Hemerocallis Society (daylilies) and the American Hosta Society. Paul reviewed the value of each of these memberships. After discussion, Julie moved that we accept and renew the current list of memberships, with the exception of Botanic Gardens Conservation International, and look into becoming a member of the American Horticultural Society. The motion was seconded by Yvonne and passed.

Paul presented a list of potential orders to be placed with Heritage Seedlings, a wholesale nursery in the Willamette Valley, and requested input on which funds to use. The order includes magnolias, some of which may be set aside for the plant sale. After discussion it was agreed to use endowment funds for this purchase.

Paul and Lucy are investigating options for improving the lighting in the greenhouse, such as the SunCoGrow LED Grow Lights (four for \$110). The board agreed this would be a worthwhile investment.

Paul reviewed a list of past priorities for the Arboretum, including progress made and challenges faced. He has sent out this list, as well as a list of the projects he hopes to accomplish this spring, and a new list for the board to review. He encouraged the board to come up with new ideas for priorities for discussion at the next meeting.

Paul announced that he has received approval to rehire Lucy, however, the maintenance budget for the Arboretum is still significantly underfunded. He has proposed ideas for getting the needed funds to cover the budget shortfall. Erik brought up the issue of using Arboretum Associates funds to pay for weekend care of the plant sale plants in the greenhouses this spring. Yvonne suggested that more volunteer work could be done to help with the plant sale preparations. Julie noted that liability may be an issue. Paul will look into ways to fund the weekend work, possibly using an endowment fund that supports maintenance activities.

New Business

Julie recommended that a list be compiled of the Board members names, addresses and phone numbers. All agreed this would be helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024