

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, February 12, 2024

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Kris Robe, Frank Clarke, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Lucy Falcy, Kat Clancy, Nancy Zabriskie (via Zoom)
Guests: Rusty Vineyard, Ken McCurry

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting. Motion passed.

Arbor Notes

Yvonne reported that she is working with a new web editor for posting recent issues of *Arbor Notes*.

Plant Sale

After extensive discussion regarding the plant sale venue, the decision was made to cancel the reservation at the new ice rink. Yvonne and others investigated other venue options, but most turned out to be costly due to charging hourly rates. Paul proposed holding the sale outside the greenhouse at Facilities as the most viable option at this point. Small canopies would be set up for the cashiers and checkout. If the weather is extremely bad, the sale would be cancelled. Paul suggested the sale be from 10am-noon on Saturday, May 18, with setup occurring earlier that morning. Julie asked about getting a porta potty. Tables will be rented. All agreed we will need to make a bigger effort to advertise the sale and the new location. An ad will be placed in local papers, as well as articles in the Inland 360, Facebook, and other social media.

Annual Meeting

Erik reviewed the terms for officers using data Kat had compiled earlier. He distributed a spreadsheet with current officers and directors and information on when each member's term expires. He encouraged board members to review this information, particularly those whose terms expire in 2024. The new terms will begin after the annual meeting. Erik also provided information for Frank on what the treasurer's report for the past year generally includes. The annual meeting will be publicized through the Moscow Pullman Daily News calendar, The Register, and social media.

Arboreta Updates

Paul reported on several recent tree removal projects. One involved removing a healthy Norway Spruce that was crowding out several beech trees. A Scots Pine recently was affected with Pine wilt disease, a new disease reported in the Boise area. The disease starts at the top of the tree and quickly spreads throughout the tree. Samples will be taken of the diseased tree.

Paul also discussed an unusual Scots Pine with striking golden needles in the winter, which he is calling Vandal Gold. Cuttings have been taken from this tree, which is very cold tolerant.

Rusty provided an update on the UI memorial garden. The proposed site is below the Shattuck Arboretum. A beacon structure with a light is proposed to be built on top of the hill at the foot of the Shattuck Arboretum. The project is in Phase 2 of design and may begin as early as this summer.

Paul reported that the database has been updated for the past year and provided a summary of what was planted. He noted that the UI Arboretum is one of 18 sites nationwide involved in a poplar study. Representatives from all sites were invited to an upcoming meeting in Vermont. Abby, the UI graduate student involved in the project, is planning to attend.

Paul noted that membership in the American Horticultural Society entitles Arboretum Associate members to free admission to all AHS gardens. He discussed options for providing this new benefit to our members. He proposed issuing membership cards which include an expiration date and discussed options for providing the cards. Board members volunteered to help with this. Harriet made a motion to approve spending \$250 on the new membership cards. Julie seconded and the motion passed. Julie also offered to check on local options for printing 4'x6" photo cards. The new membership benefit will hopefully be rolled out at the Annual Meeting.

Paul discussed the Physical Plant Administrators Maintenance Standards which suggest standards for how many acres per staff member. The Arboretum currently has 2.2 FTE for its acreage, or 28 acres per person, which is considered Level 4.

Paul suggested that we postpone the discussion of potential project improvements until the March meeting.

New Business

Erik reported on a meeting held on February 2, 2024 with Ken McCurry, Rusty Vineyard, Paul, Frank, and Erik that was a preliminary discussion regarding budget issues. Rusty and Ken provided an overview of the Facilities budget situation to the board. An extensive discussion followed regarding the potential role of Arboretum Associates in providing back-up funding support in times of need, and other possible funding options.

Erik noted the need for succession planning for when Paul decides to retire.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024