

Arboretum Associates Board Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Kris Roby, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Kat Clancy, Erik Anderson, Frank Clarke, Lucy Falcy, Nancy Zabriskie

Guest: Ken McCurry

Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting (brief review)

Erik expressed appreciation for the work done on revising the Bylaws and Constitution in preparation for the annual meeting. The updated term limits are now in effect and he asked that we table the discussion on new board members until the fall. Paul noted that he had spoken to someone who may be interested in joining the board. Erik asked for suggestions for future annual meetings. Having a guest speaker was considered beneficial and it would be helpful to specify a time limit for the speaker. To ensure that Paul has enough time for his annual Arboretum update we could schedule him to talk before the guest speaker.

Plant Sale

The set up for the plant sale will occur on Saturday morning, May 18th, with table placement starting at 7:15am and plant hauling beginning at 8am. Kat will have a sign for the raffle table with tickets and change. Erik asked Paul if this year's plant sale preparations had been any easier than in the past. Having a smaller number of plants and a cooler spring reduced the workload for Paul and Lucy. Julie moved and Nancy Z seconded the motion to purchase a gift card for Jan and Dick Leander in appreciation of their many years of coordinating the plant sale. All approved. Kat volunteered to get the gift card.

Summer Concert

Erik has emailed Dan Bukvich about the upcoming concert on July 8th. He will also contact Vanessa Sielert from the Lionel Hampton School of Music. Yvonne volunteered to be a point of contact for the concert planning while Erik is out of town. The concert poster will be created by a summer intern working with Paul and Lucy. The poster will include the logos of the Lionel Hampton School of Music and the UI Arboretum.

ArborNotes

The tentative submission deadline will be in mid-October, so Yvonne encouraged everyone to send her ideas for articles over the summer.

Arboreta Updates

Paul reported that the Nez Perce Drive realignment project is officially happening. An architect has been hired and has presented four options for parking. Two of the options include parking only on the north side. Paul expressed concerns about another option with parking on the south side by the Arboretum. He also discussed the potential removal of American elms near Nez Perce Drive which were among the few surviving elms. Lucy asked about the possibility of metered parking along Nez Perce Drive for Arboretum visitors.

Paul sent new American Horticultural Society reciprocal membership cards to all the lifetime members of the Arboretum Associates and received good feedback. He discussed the project to clear the giant willow tree that fell on April 5th. The lower trunks will be left in place. Donor recognition engraving was completed for the north entry sign area, the Hosta Walk, and Dr. Sherman Carter's oak grove. The cactus garden has been planted and is generating a lot of interest. A pump expert will be consulted on the ponds. The crabapple bloom was outstanding this year. Paul conducted recent tours for the Malcolm Renfrew Interdisciplinary Colloquium and the UI Retirees Association.

New Business

Julie noted that in addition to donating a painting to the Arboretum Associates, Bobbi Kelly had also donated prints that could be used for cards. Thanks to her excellent work, Julie is now in charge of Arboretum Associate cards.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024