

DRAFT MINUTES
JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Zoom Webinar | Wednesday, August 10, 2022 5:15 P.M.

I. Call to Order at 5:16 pm by Nell McConahay

Present: Nell McConahay, Paulette Schirmer, Rose Evans, Ed Buyarski, Kristin Bartlett, Sarah Dolan

Absent: Deborah Rudis, Peter Froehlich, Patricia Harris

Staff Present: Ginger Hudson, Arboretum Manager; Amanda Babin, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None.

III. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None.

IV. Approval of Minutes –

- A. Wednesday, May 11, 2022: E. Buyarski moves to approve minutes, no objection.
Minutes adopted.

V. New Business – None.

VI. Unfinished Business –

- A. Budget Update [see Managers Report]
- B. Residence water/internet update [see Managers Report]
- C. Commercial Use – being reviewed by SEALT, to be discussed at November meeting.

VII. Committee Liaison and Staff Reports

A. Chair Report:

N. McConahay: My third term is going to expire in January and I am not planning to renew. We are looking for a new chairperson for the advisory board and endowment subcommittee.

B. Manager's Report: *Included in packet.*

N. McConahay: You mentioned that we have a Master Gardener helping document the primula collection. Is the work that the Master Gardener is doing part of what is needed to keep up the Arboretum's primula accreditation?

G. Hudson: Yes, it is. As a member of the Public Garden Association and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International we are supposed to share our plant database with these groups so other professional gardens can inquire with us for plant material, seeds, how we grow things. To get that one genus up to date involves confirming what beds plants are in, labeling them and updating the database. I have renewed our Arboretum certification for the next five years.

N. McConahay: What does the Arboretum need to do to keep that accreditation?

G. Hudson: It doesn't need to be done every year. It's a five year rotation. There's a long questionnaire to fill out. Will you have your plants labeled? Do you have a contingency or emergence plan? Do you have seeds saved? Do you have plants distributed throughout the community? What is your process to ensure plants thrive on the property? Do you have educational programs? Writing and submitting experiential information to publications. Names change over time so we have to update signage. Those are some of the things required.

N. McConahay: Sounds rather time consuming. If the Arboretum wants to keep that up, time will need to be allotted. Having a plan in place in case of disaster, that's interesting.

G. Hudson: There are two really important documents an Arboretum should have. One is your plant collection policy, Merrill completed that. The other is the emergency policy, I need to complete that. The first thing I did to work toward that is purchasing a freezer. We do have seeds stored in deep freeze. It's a work in progress. In larger gardens this would be its own position, updating the collection, making sure plants are labeled and up to date. Most of the work we really need here is outdoors maintaining the garden. I was lucky to hire a horticultural student who has been instrumental in helping set up our CD collection. He'll be the point person working with volunteers who will help clean and package primula seeds this year.

N. McConahay: What are the numbers this year compared to previous years?

G. Hudson: For the year to date to the end of June was 5000. I think we are up a little.

N. McConahay: Does JOA have an official master plan?

G. Hudson: We do have the conservation easement which guides how the property can be used but there's not an official master plan with goals. I know an educational center was talked about. The master plan is the vision for 5, 10, 25 years down the line. Whether to increase capacity for school groups, pave paths, landscape design, whole food sustainability, adding a greenhouse, do we want to grow more food and take out perennial gardens? A master plan is big project.

N. McConahay: Would you want someone from the boards to help with that?

G. Hudson: I think it would be fantastic to have somebody from the board, a landscaper, grower, educator or some mix. I would want to make sure we could have our own meetings and not have public meetings. Having quarterly meetings takes a long time and things are forgotten in between.

N. McConahay: Maybe you and I can talk about how the board can be most helpful. In the end the Board and CBJ would need to be involved.

C. Friends of JOA:

P. White (Friends of JOA): We wanted to associate all events with the Arboretum's 15th anniversary. Every event had refreshments and entertainment, which was fun. We wanted to collaborate with artists, visual artists, theater artist, musicians, ect. We had six events sponsored by the Friends of JOA this year, some were Mother's Day, Primula Day, Public Gardens Day, Art in the Garden and educational programs. We instituted a volunteer program this year. We called it Weed Warriors and 18 volunteers came for almost 100 hours. Using a grant we made four videos that will go on the website. We plan to revamp the website. First Friday and the Arboretum summer long exhibit at the City Museum were great.

D. Other Business: None

Adjournment – 6:01 pm *Having no further business before the Board.*

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Babin, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant, 11/08/22.