

Red Butte Garden Advisory Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 3:30 PM  
Visitor Center Classroom

Present: Tory Magleby, Kym Buttschardt, Troy Aramburu, Erin Armstrong, Curt Crowther, Kristy Larsen, David Reymann, JoLynda Stillman, Beverly Vargo, Sandi Behnken

Absent: David Classen, Brandi Bosworth, Jeff Herring, Ron Motzkus, Lindee Nance, Steve Price, Selma Sierra, Laura Snow, Jamie Rubin, David Gee

Staff in Attendance: Derrek Hanson, Jayne Anderson, Natalie Cope, Eddy Dawson, Kristin Gelegotis, Sam Gluck, Kevin Jensen, Marita Tewes Tyrolt

- I. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes from May 11, 2022.  
There were not enough attendees at the start of the meeting for a quorum, so the Board voted to approve the minutes virtually.
- II. Advisory Board Chair Announcements
  - a. Nominating Committee  
New members will be voted on at the November meeting. Board members were asked to send in nominations, including a bio, by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - b. Committees  
The Executive Committee announced three new sub-committees – the Nominating Committee (which will now be separate from the Executive Committee), Planning Committee, and 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. They asked that board members with interest in a specific committee reach out, otherwise they will be assigned.
- III. Executive Director Announcements
  - a. New Director of Philanthropy  
Derrek introduced Natalie Cope, the Garden’s new Director of Philanthropy. Natalie was previously the Director of Development at Ballet West.
  - b. Concert Season Wrap-Up  
This season we had 30 shows, for a total of 88,072 tickets sold, and an average of 2,936 tickets sold per show. The season was 97.86% sold out, which beat our previous record – although we were at 98% before the Joss Stone show was rescheduled.
  - c. Strategic Planning Process  
We have begun our strategic planning process with consultant Lori Addicks of the Larkspur Group. It is a monthslong process that starts with identifying stakeholders and sending out surveys. Board members will be sent a survey and

also invited to join a focus group. The new strategic plan will ideally cover the next five years at the Garden, and will inform our master plan.

d. Airlab Exhibit at UMFA

Garden staff researched, procured, and are taking care of plants that are a part of the Airlab exhibit at UMFA. This exhibit focuses on plants that help restore damaged ecosystems, and runs through December 11.

e. Digital Membership Cards

We have officially launched digital membership cards, using a third party software called Social Good. This will also help with website integration and the checkout experience.

IV. Projects Update

a. Fire Access Road

This project will hopefully go out to bid next month, and we would like to start building this fall. We already have the funds allocated as it was originally part of the Water Conservation Garden, but unfortunately costs have gone up since we initiated the project.

b. Smaller Projects

We have been working on some smaller projects since our developing strategic plan will guide what our next capital campaign project will be. Some examples are: redesigning the courtyard beds, installing new courtyard lighting, finishing the Children's Garden wall, redesigning the beds in front of the wall, re-paving the parking lot and installing electric vehicle Charging stations, and purchasing a new seed bank refrigerator.

V. Finance Report

At the end of Fiscal Year 2021-22, Red Butte Garden has an apparent operating surplus of \$6.21M, in large part from receiving the Shuttered Venues Operators Grant. We are working towards having a larger reserve by adding funds monthly to quasi endowments. Pre-pandemic most gardens had two-three months of operating expenses in reserve, but that amount has grown to six months. We plan to keep a six month reserve.

VI. Sprinkler System Presentation

Kevin Jensen, Landscape Architect and Project Manager, gave a presentation on our new irrigation management system, WeatherTrak. This is a smart controller that will ultimately result in a substantial decrease in water usage. When comparing April - August of 2021 to the same period this year, we have already saved nearly 900,000 gallons of water.

VII. Staff Reports

There were no questions on the Staff Reports.

Adjournment 4:53pm