

Red Butte Garden Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 3:30 PM
Visitor Center Classroom

Present: David Classen, Kym Buttschardt, Curt Crowther, Lisa Andruess, Sandi Behnken, Brandi Bosworth, Carolyn Buma, Maura Carabello, Gary Christensen, Chelsey Curtis, Lindee Nance, Laura Snow, JoLynda Stillman, Vicki Varela, Beverly Vargo, Kamrin Wilson

Absent: Troy Aramburu, Steve Barth, Shaleane Gee, Greg Graham, Jeff Herring, Jamie Rubin

Staff in Attendance: Derrek Hanson, Natalie Cope, Eddy Dawson, Sam Gluck, Sarah Hinnens, Kevin Jensen, Tristin Tabish, Marita Tewes Tyrolt, Mindy Wilson

I. Welcomes & Introductions

Several new members were welcomed to the Board at this meeting: Carolyn Buma, Maura Carabello, Gary Christensen, and Chelsey Curtis.

II. Approval of Advisory Board Minutes from November 8, 2023.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes.

III. Finance Report

a. Audit Report

Jason Wheeler, auditor at our contracted auditing company Squire and Co, presented their findings. This audit is conducted annually to satisfy ZAP recipient requirements, and no major issues were found. Jason thanked Kristin Gelegotis, Finance Director, for all of her hard work and assistance.

b. Budget Report

At the end of Q2 of Fiscal Year 2023-24, Red Butte Garden has an apparent operating surplus of \$911,802. The overall decrease compared to FY 2022-23 can be attributed to increased operational spending, replacing sponsor signs on the amphitheater stage, the decision to cover current capital projects with reserve funding, an increase in contracted services for the Summer Outdoor Concert Series, a deposit payment for the Trolls exhibit, and an increase in staff wages & full-time positions.

IV. ZAP Preservation Committee

The Zoo, Arts, and Parks (ZAP) Program tax will be on the ballot this year, and we still have \$2,600 left to raise to fund our portion of the lobbying committee. As a University entity we cannot use our own funds, which is why we ask Board members to contribute.

V. Cottam Club

The Garden's newest giving society, The Cottam Club, launched six months ago. It currently has 17 members, and has already raised close to \$42,000. There are social events coming up, with a kickoff reception on May 2nd – the membership fee will count towards the board contribution for any members who wish to join.

VI. Executive Director Update

a. Concerts

The full concert season lineup will be announced on April 15th! We currently have 21 shows booked, and will be having two phases of on sale dates again.

b. Projects

The service road project is still ongoing, with boulder removal and muddy weather continuing to make things difficult. We are now hoping that this will be completed in early Spring. We are also replacing all of the paving in the Fragrance Garden, which will be done in the next few weeks. Lastly, the city will be putting a water vault at the top of the entrance drive island where the crosswalk is. This will take place most likely during mid-April, and will greatly affect traffic flow.

c. Master Plan

Derrek reviewed the draft of the final master planning presentation we received from our consultants. Highlights included increased ADA access, a possible tram route, new education & event facilities, and expanded parking.

VII. Amy McDonnell Presentation

Amy McDonnell, a PHD Candidate in Cognitive Neuroscience, gave a presentation on research she conducted here at the Garden, with the Applied Cognition Lab in the Psychology Department at the University of Utah. This research study explored the effects of immersion in nature on brain activity, and will help to identify neural biomarkers of stress recovery and cognitive restoration in nature.

VIII. Staff Reports

There were no questions on the Staff Reports.

Adjournment 5:08pm.