

## **REIMAN GARDENS COHORTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

December 8, 2004

President Chelon Stanzel called the regular December Board meeting to order at 9:30 AM in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Present: Chelon Stanzel, Jenny Martin, Jonnie Pasley, Carole Bunde, Debra Johnson, Mary Atherly, Beth Cheville, Marge Ricketts, Nick Howell, Dick Carlson, Ken & Maureen Walter, Pat Kunz, Mary Pickett, Ann Anderson, Ann Campbell, Lisa Orgler, Teresa McLaughlin and Jean Digmann

Jenny Martin introduced the new 2005 Board members that were present: Ann Campbell, Secretary; Ann Anderson, Historian; and Debra Johnson, Membership. New members not present are: Nan Ripley, Education, and Charlie Ricketts, Plant Sale.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer's report:** Mary Atherly reported that the November balance was \$7,966.24. She wrote a check in the amount of \$5000 for the CoHort Internship that was approved at the last meeting. There was a refund of \$176.01 for the Administration fees, leaving a balance of \$3,142.25, which she deposited in the CoHorts' new account at the First National Bank.

### ***Committee Reports:***

**Education:** Ken reported that there was 60-65 present at the November Brown Bag lunch. The December Brown Bag lunch will be a presentation on "The Victorian Garden" by Lisa Orgler. Ed Moran and Jen Nunez will present "Exploring the Global Garden" at the January 13th Brown Bag lunch. On January 20, 2005, there will be a meeting at 6:30 PM for those interested in assisting with the program planning for the coming year.

**Garden Guides:** There has been no change in the number of tours since the last report, but Mary said that requests are coming in for next year.

**Horticulture volunteers:** There was no activity since the last meeting, but it was announced that Charlie Yoerger suffered a mild stroke and is getting along well. A card and plant was given to him from the Board.

**Membership:** Beth reported that during the free admission Blossoms of Light Festival, there were 2500 attending and 22 became new members. \$95 was received from the attached "post it" notes, that went out on the December renewals. 500 cards were sent to members whose membership has lapsed since last November and 12 have rejoined. There will be 128 renewal letters sent in January.

**Historian:** Jonnie showed everyone the 2004 Historian book. It is complete except for the last Brown Bag lunch and the December minutes. The original will be sent to the University Library and a copy made for public viewing will be placed in the Exhibit Hall. There is also a CD with the pictures. It was noted that the book is a history of what the CoHorts do and does not include everything that happens at the Gardens.

**Newsletter:** Donna was not present, but the Newsletter is ready and will be mailed in the next few days.

**President elect:** Jenny asked for the new board members email addresses and said she will have a complete list of names and addresses and the calendar for the CoHorts at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**Past president:** Marge said that this was her last board meeting and that she enjoyed the last five years. Chelon expressed appreciation for all her efforts.

**Unfinished business:** Chelon read a note from Jen Nunez, thanking the CoHorts for their help with the Internship program. She wrote that because of the CoHorts efforts, Reiman Gardens has the ability to become a nationally renowned internship program.

**New business:** Mary Atherly presented the proposed budget for 2005. It included money for developing the Photo Cards that were discussed earlier. Carol Patterson is organizing a committee and will present to the Board some figures to make this a reality.

***Mary Atherly moved, Jonnie Pasley seconded, that the budget be accepted. The motion carried.***

**Director's update:** Teresa said for the last 6 months to a year, she has been working on staff reorganization. She had anticipated a larger staff, but because of budget restraints, the number of staff personnel is 15. She is also looking at the Café service and wants to keep the CoHorts' discounts and children's menus. She has put together a proposal that includes catering, as it is difficult for the Café staff to accommodate the Gardens hours. She is also thinking of ways to commemorate the Gardens' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which is next September.

**Garden update:** Nick reported that the planting plans for next year are nearly done. The Orchid Show will open in January and he said it would be incredible. He has met with Country Landscapes to include Reiman Gardens and the Butterfly Wing in their exhibit at the Home & Garden Show in Des Moines, which will be held February 16th through the 20<sup>th</sup>. It is a wonderful opportunity for the Gardens because 40,000 people are expected and Country Landscapes will take care of all the costs. Volunteers will be needed; there will be a 10 x 10 space for marketing and he will ask for advice on what is appropriate.

**Staff update:** Lisa thanked everyone for helping with all the activities that are going on this month. She stated that the Gardens will be open on Christmas Eve and New Year's Day, but Hazel's Kitchen would not be, so volunteers are needed to serve pastries and coffee those days.

Chelon thanked everyone for serving this past year and also thanked the Board for the card and plant that was given to her in sympathy for the loss of her mother. She then turned the meeting over to Jenny.

Jenny presented Chelon a gift as a token for her efforts this past year.

**The next meeting will be January 12, 2005, at 9:30 AM, in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.**

Jean Digmann  
Secretary