

Reiman Gardens CoHorts' Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2008
Speer Room

President Carole Bunde called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Those present included Carole Bunde, Janice Blanco, Betty Sailsbury, Richard Carlson, Craig Seymour, Monica Porter, Jack Mauldin, Clete Mercier, Darrell Neumann, Ardie Roehr, Charlie Ricketts, and Jean Digmann.

Staff present: Joan Senne, Gloria Erickson, Pat Kunz, Lisa Orgler, and Teresa McLaughlin.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the January 9, 2008 meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Clete Mercier reported a current balance of \$3087.03. No bills were presented for payment.

Committee Reports

Education: Jean Digmann reported the next brown bag lunch will be on March 13 presented by Elvin McDonald. The topic will be "The Gardening Husband: A Sport for Life." In August Jerry DeWitt from the Leopold Center will be the speaker. Betty Sailsbury reported that in January 50 people attended the brown bag lunch, and in February 47 attended.

Garden Guides: No report

Horticulture Volunteers: Jack Mauldin reported that in January volunteers spent 53 hours washing pots and transplanting. Outdoor volunteers spent 19 hours putting up wire to keep out rabbits.

Membership: Joan Senne reported the Foundation is now sending out mailings for Reiman Gardens. In the future membership renewal dates will be twice a year in June and December. In January there were 19 new members for a total membership of 2,138.

Plant Sale: Craig Seymour stated the plant sale will be August 23, 2008. He announced that on Saturdays beginning May 17, 2008 between 9 a.m. and noon, the Master Gardeners will set up a tent in the gardens and answer visitors' questions.

Historian: No report

Publicity and Marketing: Carole Bunde stated that entries for the 6th annual Reiman Gardens photo contest will be accepted July 1 – 31, 2008.

Special Projects: No report

President-Elect: No report

Past President Report: Dick Carlson reported that the Iowa Barbershop contest was a big success.

Unfinished Business:

2008 Gardens' Season Opening Review

Gloria Erikson reported on the following upcoming events:

April 24 - A novel Garden preview party with music by the Dixie Flicks, appetizers, and a cash bar.

April 25 – Arbor Day celebration and annual tree planting ceremony 9 a.m. - noon. The Ames Chamber of Commerce will be present for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

April 26 – Reiman Gardens book sale 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to help with pricing and set up.

May 11 – Mother's Day Brunch

June 1 – CoHorts' appreciation and membership week ice cream social.

June 6 – Dancing Under the Stars

June 15 – Father's Day Brunch

June 26 – Rose Festival with music, demonstrations, and rose sale.

July 13 – Garden Art Fair

July 22 – Ragbrai comes to Ames

New Business:

Gift Shop Focus Group Summary: Andrew Andoniadis held a two-day workshop on opening a new gift shop. Teresa is putting together a plan for the gift shop which will be located at the north end of the building and be 400 square feet. She is interviewing applicants for the position of gift shop manager and plans to use volunteers to help staff the shop.

Gardens' Construction: The former gift shop and café will become one space that could seat about 300 people. A learning center will be established in the Mahlstedde Building. All renovations should be complete by the end of May.

Director Update: Teresa McLaughlin announced that the butterfly wing will open on April 5th. Beverages and dry snacks for purchase will be available for visitors.

Staff Reports:

Pat Kunz stated the new 2008 Volunteer Training Schedule brochure will be distributed at various locations in town.

Foundation Representative Comments

Monica Porter announced that she will be retiring at the end of the month and her replacement will be attending the CoHorts' Board meetings.

Announcements: The next board meeting will be March 12, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Ajourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Blanco, Secretary