

Reiman Gardens CoHorts' Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2009

President Charlie Ricketts called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Those present included Charlie Ricketts, Janice Blanco, Saren Johnston, Darrell Neumann, Dean Sampson, Jack Mauldin, Charlie Yoerger, Clete Mercier, Betty Sailsbury, Ardie Roehr, Carole Bunde, Sara Mitchell, Jeanne Rieck, Doris Brown, Miriam Takle, Jean Digmann, Craig Seymour, and Georganna Hinrichsen.

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

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2009 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Clete Mercier reported our current balance is \$3,529.04. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made and approved for payment of \$37.50 for a sign.

Committee Reports

Education: Betty Sailsbury reported that 87 people were in attendance at the last brown bag lunch. On May 21st the brown bag lunch will be presented by Dr. Donald Lewis on the topic of "Ancient Bugs and Current Pests." Georganna Hinrichsen read a note from Mavis Butler, whose second grade class presented the brown bag lunch in April.

Garden Guides: Pat Kunz reported that hundreds of kids are coming through on tours this season.

Horticulture Volunteers: Dean Sampson reported the following volunteer hours worked in May: Indoor Horticulture- 80.75 hours, Facilities-37.75 hours, and Outdoor Horticulture- 2.75 hours. Pat Kunz stated there will be evening volunteer hours for outdoor horticulture.

Membership: Jeanne Rieck stated that the gardens will be sending out its membership renewals. Membership renewals will be sent to 900 households. There are currently 1,876 household members, which is 89 more than last month. Teresa McLaughlin mentioned the possibility of giving gifts to those making a higher donation amount. Board members discussed the objection of some people to the \$5 processing fee added to memberships.

Plant Sale: Craig Seymour stated the Master Gardeners had a successful plant sale, and we will use some of the same strategies for the CoHorts' sale. Ardie Roehr is organizing committees for the August 28, 2009 Plant Sale Preview Party.

Historian: Sara Mitchell stated she is taking pictures for the historian's book.

Publicity and Marketing: Miriam Takle reported we sold 19 large cards and 6 sets of note cards last month. The photo contest information is being prepared. Gloria Erickson suggested that we sell cards with dinosaur pictures on them.

Special Projects: Ardie Roehr suggested that we place a dinosaur picture at the donation box.

President-Elect Report: Jean Digmann announced plans for a bus trip to Chicago between September 15th-17th. It will be "An Illinois Garden Sampler" with visits to various gardens and Galena. The trip is being organized by Sandy Austin and will cost \$449. Detailed information will be in the e-newsletter going out next week. Darrell Neumann is working on a trip to Costa Rica scheduled for February 28 - March 9, 2010.

The intern and staff luncheon given by the CoHorts' will be Wednesday, July 8th.

Past President Report: Carole Bunde reported she has been in contact with the organizers of Raising Readers.

Director Update - Teresa McLaughlin reported record attendance at the gardens. The first weekend in May brought in \$4,000 in admissions and \$2,000 in the gift shop. On Mother's Day we had \$10,000 in admissions and \$5,000 in the gift shop.

Nathan Brockman received a grant which includes visiting butterfly houses around the country for the next 3 years. This grant will increase the credibility of our butterfly house.

Since the dinosaurs have been slow in arriving, they might be at the gardens longer.

Other Staff Reports

Lisa Orgler announced the theme for next year will be "Better Gnomes and Gardens."
The interns and hourly workers began work this week.

Gloria Erickson reported CoHorts' week will be May 31st - June 6th with an Ice Cream Social May 31st from 1-4 p.m. and Dancing Under the Stars June 5th from 7-10 p.m.
There will be 75 booths for the Garden Art Fair July 12th from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission will be \$5 for adults and free for members.

Announcements

Next Meeting - June 10, 2009
9:30 a.m. Speer Room

Adjourn

Charlie Ricketts adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.