

Reiman Gardens CoHorts' Board Meeting—February 9, 2011

Members Present: Carolyn Bolinger, Jean Digmann, Jeanne Rieck, Darrell Neumann, Reta Althaus, Teresa McLaughlin, Sheryl Soden, Fidella Marty, Dan Divine, Denise Vrchota, Jody Melcher.

Members Absent: Dave Austin, Dean Sampson, Mary Lou Mumm, Saren Johnston, Alzire Messenger, Dorothy Yoerger, Doris Brown, Marie Hammon, Mariam Takle.

Meeting was called to order by Jean Digmann at 9:35.

Penny brought the equipment the CoHorts purchased for her with last year's gift money.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Please change Reta Althaus' email address to yahoo.com instead of aol.com.

Treasurer's Report—Carolyn Bolinger—ala Carte made \$85.85 at Picnic Antics.

Committee Reports

Membership—Jeanne Rieck—2279 members with 23 new members. Last year at this time we had 2106. We sold six memberships during Picnic Antics. Teresa added that we should sell memberships with ala Carte at every event. Get email addresses from people so they can get the newsletter. Also let people know there is a reciprocal agreement with 200 gardens throughout the US.

Education—Fidella Marty—Brown Bag Lunch tomorrow will be about how insects are used as insecticides. Next month will be M.J. Hatfield. Teresa asked if a staff member could make announcements at the beginning.

Volunteers—from a Pat Kunz email—204 hours in the butterfly wing, 1 adult tour for 2 hours, no youth tours. Total volunteer hours in January—834.

Plant Sale—Darrell Neumann—no report

Historian—Sheryl Soden, Reta Althaus—picture of the Conservatory from *The Sun* will go in the book. Last year's book is done.

Publicity and Marketing—Marie Hammon—not here

Photo & Cards—Dan Divine—has information from previous years to look through.

Will start in May. Would be a good idea to put a notice in the newsletters about taking winter pictures.

CoHort Events & Activities—Denise Vrchota—plant and art auction will be taken care of by Sandy Austin and Dean Sampson. Would like to see a line in all publicity that food will be served by ala Carte giving specific information about what type of food. Teresa gave suggestions about who to contact. We have no control over press releases.

President Elect—Dean Sampson—not here

Past President—There are chicken nuggets left from Picnic Antics. Board members can purchase some. Anything left after the meeting will be donated to ERP.

No old or new business.

Director Update—Teresa McLaughlin—working on next year's Lego Show. Will commission large sculptures to place in the gardens. Lego sculptures of state birds, animals from different countries. Each large sculpture costs about \$7000. Lego League topic is a robotic of Building a Green City. We could have people come in to build and show. It was suggested that we have an area for children to build with Legos. Possibly people would be willing to donate some. This year's displays are being worked on. Waiting to see what happens with the state budget cuts. Rajean Birkestrand has been hired to take over some of the financial duties. Trying to streamline the system so people have a card to scan when they come in that would give information about what they are interested in here at The Gardens. It would be similar to our Vol-gistics system for volunteers. It is hoped we can allow people to renew memberships online. Orchid night is Friday with food, wine, and music. Rainbird—we are in second place. Not sure if voting ends March 1 or March 22. Teresa will try to find out.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25.

Next Meeting—March 9, 2011—9:30

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Melcher
Secretary