

CoHorts Board Meeting September 14, 2011  
9:30 AM

Members Present: Charles Yoerger, Darrell Neumann, Marie Hammon, Jeanne Rieck, Dean Sampson, Doris Brown, Jean Digmann, Dave Austin, Denise Vrchota, Nathan Brockman, Teresa McLaughlin, Miriam Takle.  
Members Absent: Sheryl Soden, Fidella Marty, Mary Lou Mumm, Dan Divine, Miriam Takle, Carolyn Bolinger.  
Guest: John Stein

Meeting called to order by Dave at 9:30. Dave talked about the need to communicate and listen to everyone's point of view. We need to work together assisting the staff.

Minutes approved—with addition of Sheryl Soden as being present.

Treasurer's Report—\$1375 check received from Iowa State for photo contest. Still waiting on check from plant sale—around \$1200. We will deposit checks and cash. Credit cards will go through Reiman Gardens. We will receive a check minus the service fee.

Committee Reports

Staff—Nathan Brockman—working on grants to get android tablets with software that will pull together butterfly data for use by docents. There will also be a stationary kiosk for visitors to use.

Membership—Jeanne Rieck—2650 households with 28 brand new members not including Groupon. 165 Groupon came in. Some didn't get in before cut off date so had to pay additional.

Education—Dave reported there were 57 people at the last Brown Bag.

Volunteers—Charlie Yoerger, Doris Brown—91 Volunteers with 790 hours.

Plant Sale—Darrell Neumann—revised figures—total--\$3605.54. Total income is \$4771.54. \$9378.22 is new balance. Treasurer's report did not include credit cards and extra taken in after plant sale. Dave had a \$125 bill in our mailbox from Swift for shipping. Darrell is happy with how it went. He will volunteer to do the sale again with a co-chair and is open to suggestions for next year. Thanks to everyone for help. Contact information for people who registered for door prizes will be shared with Teresa.

Historian—Sheryl Soden—no report

Publicity and Marketing—Marie Hammon—good publicity for Plant Sale. Drawings were helpful in getting people there. Additional ideas welcome.

Photo & Cards—Dan Divine, Miriam Takle—photos from contest are in books on table. 110 Cards and 23 note card sets delivered to gift shop this morning. May move more towards butterfly cards. They sell better than flowers. Price may go up or we might get a little more from the sale. We have made about \$500 this year. No more supplies purchased until next year. Photo contest went well and albums look nice. Dan has a detailed report about entrants that will be very helpful for next year.

CoHort Events & Activities—Denise Vrchota—no report.

Director Update—working on budget. \$2.2 million dollar budget currently. About half from several different funds. About \$700,000 is from what The Gardens does in earned income. Rest is from private gift support. Working with John Stein on mission

statement, vision statement, staff development, management team. Staff is responding well. David Rogers picked up big bugs to take to next site. Sean Kenney was here to talk about Lego exhibit for next year. We will own the show and will sell it to other gardens. It will last about 10 years. How do we merchandize around the exhibit? Getting kids involved with activities during the year would help. May try to get into VEISHA parade with a Lego theme. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in 2015. We need to start planning. The Kohler people came to see the Big Bug display before displaying it at their campus.

President Elect—Dean Sampson—will not be here for the Board meeting next month but will be here for the Annual Meeting.

Past President—Jean Digmann—new officer nominations—Jody Melcher—President Elect, and Barbara White—Secretary.

Old Business—Exec. Committee Report by Dean Sampson—working on mission and purpose. Also reorganized committees. We talked about how to get more members and volunteers.

New Business—Draft of By-Laws Update by Denise Vrchota—line 19 should say educate rather than education. Standing committees—Membership Recruitment, Membership Retention, Volunteers, Education and Events—just changed the numbering. Four committees—each needs a chair or co-chairs and members. Only chairs and co-chairs will come to Board Meetings. “Such as” should be deleted from line 251 under Education and Events. Specific events or duties will not be in by-laws but will be in final report and possibly policy manual. Historian will be a separate committee. Final by-laws will be sent out before next meeting. Then we will start on the policy manual.

Dave reminded us that annual reports need to be in by the end of September. The Annual Meeting will be October 27 at 6:30 and Appreciation at 7:00.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 12—9:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Melcher Secretary