

Cohorts' Board Minutes
March 10, 2010

Members present: Georganna Hinrichsen, Sara Mitchell, Jeanne Rieck, Teresa McLaughlin, Joyce Krug, Mary Lou Mumm, Carolyn Bolinger, Jean Digmann, Darrell Neumann, Charlie Yoerger, Miriam Takle, Jody Melcher

Jean called the meeting to order at 9:30.

Minutes of last meeting approved.

Treasurer's report approved with change of date from January 31 to February 28 at the end of the report. Balance on hand is \$4,129.54 Carolyn asked about past reports and bank statements from the 1990's. Teresa suggested that past information be kept in a central location rather than passing it on from person to person. Do we need to duplicate it electronically? The University library will scan it for us. This will be explored. A gift was given to Past President Charlie Ricketts.

Education—Georganna Hinrichsen reported that Veronica Fowler will speak on "Beyond the Basics of Garden Perennials" at the Brown Bag Luncheon. Veronica wrote a book and directed proceeds to Reiman Gardens. Fifty two people were in attendance at last month's luncheon. Mary Lou Mumm will take care of getting bars for the luncheons.

Garden Guides—There were 227.60 hours in Butterfly Wing in February.

Horticulture—Charles Yoerger reported 2841 volunteer hours since November.

Membership—Jeanne Rieck reported that we have 2132 members. That is up 26. Eight people helped with the call-a-thon. Brochures were sent to some people. A call-a-thon may take place monthly for a while to continue through the lists. Jean reported on experiences at the Orchid Show membership table. She felt people were interested in programs and some probably joined at the desk.

Plant Sale—Darrell Neumann has contacted previous suppliers and received positive response for this year. It will be held the last weekend in August.

Historian—Sara Mitchell read a thank you note from the University Archives thanking us for the 2009 Cohort History Book. Sara sent a thank you note with two passes to Tanya.

Marketing—Mirian Takle reported that things are moving in the gift shop but there isn't anything she needs to do at this time.

Social Event—June 19—Donations would have to go through the Foundation rather than the CoHort Board. Contract has been signed for “Midnight Ivory” to provide music. There are a lot of details to take care of. We need to include this in our budget in November.

Teresa reported on a trip that Sandy Austin is putting together to Kansas City in June for 3 days and 2 nights. It will include a play, the Nelson-Atkins museum, the Powell Gardens. More details will be forthcoming. ISU may start paying our utility bills. We would save about \$200,000 a year. We have three people who are term appointments. Unless we get money to keep them, their jobs would end. ISU might pick up that cost as well as costs for repairs to the greenhouse. Nothing is definite yet but it sounds positive.

Teresa is putting together a fundraising campaign to help with rabbit damage. 50 trees have to be replaced. Trunks were wrapped, fenced, sprayed, but the deep snow made it easy for rabbits to get above the protection. \$10,625 cost for trees alone, plus taking out old trees, and the replanting. Total cost could be about \$35,000. People would be asked to help replant a tree at a cost of \$500 or pay \$250 for a tree. Donors would not get their name on the tree. Studies have been made to find out how we can prevent this from happening again. This could cost another \$5000. Jean suggested that we do a story for the paper. A marketing plan is needed. We need to let ISU know how important the gardens are to the community. There will be a tree planting ceremony for Arbor Day—Thursday April 23. It is hoped that Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will be here. No information yet about the Spring Preview. Gift Shop is doing well. Sales have been high for this time of year.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Melcher
Secretary