

REIMAN GARDENS COHORTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2004

President Chelon Stanzel called the regular September Board meeting to order at 9:30 AM in the Speer Room at Reiman Gardens.

Present: Dick Carlson, Ken Walter, Maureen Walter, Mary Pickett, Chelon Stanzel, Nick Howell, Carol Patterson, Jonnie Pasley, Mary Atherly, Carole Bunde, Jenny Martin, Pat Kunz, Marge Ricketts, Lisa Orgler, Teresa McLaughlin, Ardie Roehr, Beth Cheville and Jean Digmann

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the August meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report: Mary reported as of this date, the balance is \$8,065.23. Income for the month was: Plant Sale, \$5,341.00; Photo Contest, \$10.00. Expenses paid out were: Administration fee, \$25.12; Photo Awards, \$245.00; Plant Sale expenses, \$15.27; and DMF Gardens, \$1226.50. The Administration fee is based on a percentage of the balance.

Committee reports:

Education: Ken reported that approximately 40 people attended the last Brown Bag lunch with Neil Hamilton. The next program will be a presentation on "Adding to Your Garden Skills" with James Romer and Barbara Sylvester. He reminded everyone that the programs could be applied toward Master Gardening credit.

Garden Guides: Mary stated that September is a busy month for Youth Tours as there are 15 tours scheduled with 463 children participating. The total number of Youth Tours for the year is 121, with 263 guides and 3674 children participating. There are 74 Adult Tours for the year, with 156 guides and 2411 guests. Pat added that getting volunteers has not been a problem as there is a core group that responds very quickly. There is now 1 paid guide and 4 paid docents in the Butterfly Wing.

Horticulture volunteers: Charlie reported that in August there was an average of 6 people working each time in the Rose Gardens, contributing 110 hours. The dead heading will continue for 3 more weeks and after that spring bulbs will be planted.

Membership: Carole reported that 59 new memberships were received in August. In addition, \$205 was received from the attached post-it notes. There will be 80 renewal letters sent out in October.

Plant sale: Neither Gary or Lisa Harmison were present, but Lisa sent an email stating that the Plant Sale was very successful. She also suggested changes for the next year if the Plant Sale continues.

Newsletter: Donna Cipolloni was not present, but Chelon announced that the Newsletter for January through April will be going out in early December and the dead line for submitting articles and information is November 10th.

President elect: Jenny said that she and Ed have chosen bulbs for the Volunteer Appreciation Event. 1400 Muscari bulbs have been ordered.

Past president: Marge stated that the nominating committee would be meeting right after today's meeting.

Unfinished business:

Administrative fees: Teresa said that she has spoken to Ellen Rasmussen about the fees. She has not heard from her, but will check again after the meeting.

Review of CoHort Board positions: Chelon asked individual members to review their position and to report on whether they felt there should be changes. Each member reported and there were many good comments, among them a discussion on what to do with the photos from the contest. Various ideas were presented, one of them to print post cards and sell them. An ad hoc committee will be formed to investigate this endeavor. It was also suggested that perhaps we have a “fund raising” committee that would oversee all fund raising. Other suggestions included were to have a page in the Newsletter that would have a daily calendar listing activities. Another comment made was that there be more education opportunities to improve the performance of the volunteers, especially in the Butterfly Wing. The doors to the Butterfly Wing were discussed and the staff is looking into different options. It was also suggested that an “Interpretation Volunteer” Board position be added to recruit volunteers.

Chelon thanked everyone for the input and said it was a valuable discussion.

Director update: Teresa said that she now reports to Ellen Rasmussen, Associate Provost. She stated that Ellen would like to attend our meetings. Teresa noted that in the Better Homes and Gardens September issue, there is an article about Reiman Gardens under the title “Exploring Universities”. She is working closely with the staff on many projects. The staff has attended training. She is keeping an eye on the budget and so far, it has not gone in the red. She emphasized that it is very important how we inform and relate to the University. She will celebrate her 5 year anniversary with Reiman Gardens this month and invited everyone for cake next week.

Garden update: Nick reported that 600 mums have been planted and that the spring bulbs have been ordered. He said next year’s planting would be unique and different. He and his staff are redoing the Campanile Garden and the South Gardens. They have also painted some buildings.

Staff update: Lisa said a cabling system was ordered for the display board in the Exhibit Hall of the Conservatory. She said that Jen Nunez is working on interpretation for next year. The new theme for the Gardens is “The Global Garden” and the biggest event will be a Butterfly Safari, which will highlight butterflies from different countries. Nathan Brockman is developing butterfly cards as trading cards. The Cards will be available for purchasing. There will also be classes. The Butterfly Wing will be featured in Better Homes and Gardens magazine in 2006.

She thanked everyone for all the volunteer hours last month.

The staff is also planning a spring plant sale. They plan to make it into a festival and will have unique plants for sale.

Jonnie asked for extra pictures, if anyone had any.

Jenny complimented the staff on the Nada concert and said it was fabulous.

The meeting adjourned.

Jean Digmann
Secretary