**Arboretum Associates Board Meeting**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

UI Facilities Large Conference Room

Present: Paul Warnick, Erik Anderson, Harriet Hughes, Nancy Sprague, Nancy Zabriskie, Kat Clancy, Julie Miller, Yvonne Barkley, Frank Clarke

Absent: Lucy Falcy, Kris Roby

**Welcome Frank Clarke**

The Board welcomed Frank Clarke, new Board member and Treasurer.

**Approval of Minutes**
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting. Motion passed.

**Fall Arboretum Crawl**

The Fall Crawl planned by Zachariah Green and his wife Lillyanna was held on October 8, 2023, and exceeded expectations. An estimated 400-450 people enjoyed the fun event and spectacular fall colors at the Arboretum. More than 400 mini pumpkins hidden along the gravel road were a big hit.

**Plant Sale**

Erik met with Paul recently to brainstorm ways to better share the workload for preparing for the plant sale. One suggestion was to pay staff to do the plant watering on weekends, particularly in April and May. The Board agreed that using Arboretum Associates funds for special projects, such as the watering for the annual plant sale would be appropriate. The location of the plant sale has not yet been determined. Nancy Zabriskie suggested that we investigate the option of using the rabbit/poultry barn at the Fairgrounds. Paul will check on this.

**Arbor Notes**

Yvonne reviewed the list of articles for the next issue, including one on gifts for gardeners and one on the Arboretum’s sustainability efforts. A brief article on the Fall Crawl, with lots of photos will be included. Kat volunteered to write this article. The goal is for the next issue to come out by the last week of November. Instead of another full issue in the spring it was suggested that we send out postcards or a one-page reminder for the plant sale and concert.

**Annual Meeting**

Erik checked the University calendar and recommended that we schedule the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. Kat volunteered to reserve the 1912 Center for this event.

**Arboreta Updates**

Paul presented a slideshow highlighting recent events at the Arboretum. He shared stories of providing tours to several people who had fascinating connections to the Arboretum. These interactions resulted in some large donations and ideas for new interpretive signs and plantings.

Major projects include:

* Significant improvements have been noted in the clarity of the upper pond, in part due to added water and ducks eating the duckweed.
* Two rock installation projects will start next Monday. One will be placed at the north end of the Arboretum to frame a new sign for the Arboretum. It will include nine upright basalt columns and two horizontal basalt pieces for benches. The other rock placing project will include steps on a steep slope that will improve access to the hostas.
* Expansion of the parking lot by the barn will be done this fall by Motley and Motley at a cost of approximately $6800. A motion to approve the use of Arboretum Associates funds for this project was put forward by Julie, seconded by Kat and passed by the Board.
* Motley and Motley will also consider working on the accessibility pathway project.
* Several options for equipment purchases were discussed. Paul has investigated Daihatsu mini trucks which have a dump bed and folding sides. He also looked into the Club Car Urban Electric Truck, an all-electric utility vehicle with a slightly smaller dump bed. Paul will meet with his boss to see if the University of Idaho would be willing to help with the purchase of the all-electric vehicle as part of their sustainability focus.
* Paul discussed concerns about reclaimed water use that are affecting the Arboretum.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

**Next meeting**: Monday, November 13, 2023