

MINUTES JENSEN-OLSON ARBORETUM ADVISORY BOARD
Zoom Webinar | Wednesday, November 10, 2021 5:15 P.M.

I. Call to Order at 5:21 pm by Pat Harris

Present: Deborah Rudis, Peter Froehlich, Patricia Harris, Paulette Schirmer, Sarah Dolan, Kristin Bartlett, Rose Evans

Absent: Ed Buyarski, Nell McConahey

Staff Present: Ginger Hudson, Arboretum Manager; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Hunter Huddlestun, Staff Liaison; Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None.

III. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None.

IV. Approval of Minutes –

- A. Wednesday, August 11, 2021:** P. Froehlich moves to approve minutes, no objection.
Minutes adopted.

V. New Business –

A. Upcoming term expirations

L. Verrelli-We have four board members that have their terms expiring on January 31, 2022. You should have received an email from Granicus and we will send another email with a link for those who wish to reapply.

K. Bartlett-I was going to have another person from the school district that was going to take my place, but that didn't end up happening, so I will reapply.

B. Amalga Meadows Park Master Plan

M. Elfers- A couple years ago Kristi started a neighborhood group, and they were interested in creating a master plan with public input. First off we wanted to look at what's out there, what's the historic use and what the value is. In the first map is an assessment plan, different zones that we've noted to be historic use and ongoing use. Our other plan is circulation and connection plan and that's about the trails and how people get in and out of the park. The last map is impact zones and uses. This will set the management on different areas of the parks, some areas will be more protected because higher value of habitat. The boundary of the plan has been brought down to the Arboretum at the southern end of the property. We will be fixing the boundary so that the plan is not part of the easement for the arboretum.

P. Harris- What is the proper channel to make comments?

M. Elfers- You can give me a call or e-mail me at any time.

C. Residence Water & Filtration Options

G. Hudson-I have found an interim solution and that is delivery by Alaska Spring Water at a cost of \$1,000 a year. Michele has spoken with Nate at building maintenance about potentially installing a filter system in the residence. This would alleviate most of the delivery, however there is still no water in the gardener shed, so there would still possibly be some water delivery.

M. Elfers-We recently drilled at the Eagle Valley Center. We have a bond project to do energy efficiency upgrades. It was a little over \$70,000 to drill. Related to the Arboretum we started to look into other solutions. If the board wanted to make a motion to support use of the endowment funds to pay \$1,000 annual fee.

P. Froehlich- I feel the city owns the building; it should come from the city funds.

M. Elfers-These are unrestricted funds that are coming from the rent that the manager pays. The way its set up is that money goes to the endowment, but its stays as these unrestricted funds

P. Froehlich-I think that is different from the rent, it makes sense to me it is a landlord expense.

G. Hudson- During my discussion with Michelle this and internet are things that CBJ considers it should provide.

M. Elfers- We could put it in the budget. It would come out of the operating budget, which means Gingers discretionary money for the Arboretum drops by the cost of the water.

P. Harris-Would anyone want to make a motion to that effect that we use discretionary funds?

P. Schirmer-I would make a motion to use the discretionary funds to pay for the water.

M. Elfers- I would suggest changing term in the using the unrestricted funds, instead of discretionary.

P. Harris- Are there any objections?

P. Froehlich - I object, if we pick something up it will stay that way forever and I don't think it should.

P. Harris- What about a temporary time clause? I think the major point here is that if the city has to pay for it right now, funds are going to be reduced because it's not part of the Arboretum budget right now.

P. Froehlich- How about we amend a motion along the lines of, the rest of this fiscal year to give a stopgap to give the city a chance to deal with it on a more permanent basis.

P. Schirmer-That would be a good alteration to the amendment. It is in the information for the endowment that the expenditures for capital, improvements can be taken from the Support Fund for the benefit of the property, it is within our endowment information. I think running it right now, as a stop gap is probably a really good idea.

M. Elfers- Just a clarification by making a motion today in favor, this is for the budget for next year (FY23).

P. Froehlich-I will withdraw my objections.

P. Schirmer-My motion still stands. I move JOAAB recommends using the unrestricted funds to pay for the residence water.

S. Dolan-I still second.

Motion passes unanimously.

D. Internet upgrade options for residence

G. Hudson-I had an additional meeting with CBJ MIS department and further learned CBJ is limited by what the service provider's offer. Neither ACS nor GCI is willing to extend modern internet services out the road. There is one service that is currently available and that is Hughes Net for \$1,440 per year. It would give improved speed, currently our Internet service is one megabyte per second upload and download. Hughes net would offer three megabytes.

R. Evans-Has anyone checked with AT&T for internet?

G. Hudson-I'm guessing that you probably have to be within shot of a cell phone tower and that is the current issue with Snow Cloud trying to extend the reach of the cell phone towers.

P. Harris- Sounds like this question is still up in the air; Ginger can use more research.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Commercial Use policy & Administrative Supplement

M. Elfers- Parks and Rec has been going through a process to update our commercial use regulations at the Arboretum. There are three documents we are considering for commercial use at the Arboretum. First is the Parks and Rec Commercial Use Regulation we are working on with Law. Then we have a policy for the Arboretum that would be more specific about

commercial use at the Arboretum. Lastly, working with SEAL Trust on the conservation easement, which has information regarding commercial use specifically. In the conservation easement, an administrative supplement helps guide the Arboretum for commercial use. Last year, the board had reviewed the administrative supplemental draft that we worked on with SEAL Trust. We recently got an updated version from law that has some changes. For nonprofit commercial activity, this administrative supplement says, you can have nonprofit commercial activity as long as it meets the other goals and values of the conservation easement and the arboretum. For profit commercial use is on a case by case basis.

Krista Garrett (SEAL Trust) - We view these administrative supplements as clarifying documents and standing interpretations of the easement. The goal would be that CBJ does not have to come out every time about certain topics.

M. Elfers- We have sent the board the latest draft of the administrative supplement to look at and ask any questions. We also will be sending it to our city attorneys to review as well, and any questions or comments before it goes back to SEAL Trust after that review. We attached the policy that you reviewed before and that has been unchanged. What I would propose is that we just leave it as is until we get the commercial use regulation approved by the Assembly. Once we have the administrative supplement regulation, then you can look at the policy and make any more changes since the policy is going to be the document with the most detail. Once we look at that, we will send it back to SEALT for review and work with them on it to get some general allowances.

B. Memorial Policy Proposal

G. Hudson- Most public places have a memorial policy and I have received quite a few requests over the summer. I have created a draft memorial policy, which includes some memorial ideas. We have discussed putting a piece of art on the side of a building, say a tree or something and folks would purchase a goodbye leaf for their loved one.

P. Harris- I like the idea of something on the side of a building, I do not think we want to overrun the garden with plaques on plants and trees.

R. Evans- I liked how the Shrine is so intentional about their area. It doesn't have to be throughout the whole place but a certain part.

P. Harris- Maybe you could combine those two ideas, the central place for remembrance.

P. Harris- I suggest we table this until the next meeting, and that will give people a chance to brainstorm some creative alternatives.

VII. Committee Liaison and Staff Reports

A. Chair Report – None

B. Manager's Report: *Included in packet*

C. Friends of JOA:

Pat White- For our annual raffle we are raffling off about seven gifts and if anyone wants to buy a raffle, they are \$10 apiece. This is so we can raise money for the supplies.

D. Other business -None

Adjournment – 7:53p.m. *Having no further business before the Board.*

Respectfully submitted by Hunter Huddlestun, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant I, 11/22/21.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum, Manager's Report to the Advisory Board

November 10, 2021

- Food production and donations

A combined 100 lbs of produce and herbs were donated to: Glory Hall, ZGYC, and AWARE. Maria's Tlingit potatoes were planted in three locations as an informal experiment: on the beach fringe as would have been traditional and left alone all summer; in a conventional garden row and hilled like other potatoes; and in decorative pots. The beach potatoes produced even sized and a good quantity from 1-dozen seed potatoes; garden-row plants were prolific this year, possibly due to hilling and less rain which caused reduced production last year; plants in pots seemed to be size limited perhaps due to space.

- European Mtn Ash/bear activity

One large mtn ash was removed by AEL&P because it had become entwined in the power pole and cables on the grounds. Service was donated. That large tree was a high berry producer known to attract multiple bears at a time.

Two bears regularly visited JOA, one juvenile and one large adult. Their main target was devil's club berry heads; then the adult continued to visit for berries in another large mountain ash between the rhododendrons. There were no significant bear-human interactions and only one early closure day for bear in the tree.

- Infrastructure: compost bins, Lovely Loo, fuel oil tank, pathway

Trees and large greens run through a shredder became the base for two demonstration compost bins near the accessible parking area. Interpretive signage to be designed and installed 2022.

A mural of native plants and birds was completed by local artist Larisa Manewal inside the new loo brightening up the inside. (The loo is the first stop for many visitors.)

CBJ maintenance completed install and re-piping of an above ground heating fuel oil tank. The original to the site underground tank is to be decommissioned before end of year.

The old partial pathway leading to the residence and gardeners shed was rebuilt with smooth pre-made pavers. The old natural stone was re-purposed in an extension of the path that leads to the Primula display stand. Funded by JOA operations budget and FJOA.

- FJOA support (Friends of Jensen-Olson Arboretum)

Volunteer docents contributed 73 hours onsite between May and September
Plant and seed sales held through FJOA online shop raised over \$3,000.

FJOA received an ARPA (federal American Rescue Plan Act) Easy Grant of \$3,500 in October to be used toward upgrading JOAs online resources, to be spent by Sept 2022.

- Visitation YTD: 6,596; May – September: 6,227

- Hours of operation and staffing

Summer seasonal staff worked until September 26.

Working with Deputy Director Michele Elfers I decided to adjust open hours for the winter, mid-October through mid-March open Friday – Sunday 9a – 4p. As seen from numbers above, visitation is very low. My normal schedule remains Wednesday – Sunday 9a-5pm. In order to meet with other P&R employees and to utilize faster internet, I will be in the City Hall P&R office on Wednesdays and some Thursdays.

- Seeds were contributed for seed exchanges with the American Primrose Society and the North American Rock Garden Society. Seed potatoes have been stored in the cold cellar; heirloom garlic was planted late September. Note: there are two heirloom varieties that may not have been acknowledged in the past: Caroline’s purple stripe, specific variety unknown; German Extra Hardy brought by former Manager Merrill Jensen when he arrived in Juneau. Additional varieties planted sourced from Joe Orsi and Ed Buyarski.

- Outreach:

I contributed a short presentation “*Sorbus acuparia*, its historic use, spread, and control in SE Alaska with focus on JOA” to the 2021 Alaska Invasive Species Conference. The organizer has asked for a longer presentation for 2022.

On February 9, I will be part of a panel speaking on gardening for climate change resilience at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival in Seattle, I am representing JOA and its maritime environment. You can see the description here:

<https://gardenshow.com/seminars/schedule/wed>

Thank you for your support of the arboretum.

Submitted by Ginger Hudson