



Red Butte Garden
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
Red Butte Garden Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday February 8, 2017, 3:30 PM
Classroom

Present: Derrek Hanson, Tom Ramsey, Tim Welsh, Cathy Angstman, Sandi Behnken, Thomas Brickey, David Classen, Fred Esplin, Gayle Everest, Cindy Kindred, Kristy Larsen, Tori Magleby, Nancy Martin, Kevin Murphy, Joe Sargetakis, Chris Satovick, Susan Speer, Stephen Urquhart, Angie Welling, Henry Wurts, Sandy McOomber.

Absent: Greg Lee, Byron Barkley, Chuck Horman, Steve Price.

Staff in Attendance: Kristin Gelegotis, Yasmine Jarvis, Kevin Jensen, Roxanne Kulakowski, Wendy Loyning, Elisa Pierce, Bryn Ramjoue, Bruce Pavlik, Sara Sorensen.

- I. Approval of Advisory Board minutes from November 30, 2016.
A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes with the following correction: Chris Satovick and Gayle Everest were marked as absent when they were in attendance. The minutes from the November meeting have been retroactively changed to show the corrected attendance listing.

- II. Announcements
The Board welcomed new member Jeff Herring, who is the Chief Human Resources Officer at the University. He will replace Mike Perez as the Board's ex-officio University representative.

New member nominations will take place at the May Board meeting instead of this meeting. Derrek asked the Board to submit any names for nomination in the next few weeks.

August 2 will be this year's Symphony performance.

- III. Finance Committee Report
 - a. Audit Report
Danny Burrow from Pinnock, Robbins, Posey, & Richins, PC presented to the Board his firm's procedure for the audit they performed for the 15/16 fiscal year. The Independent Auditor's Report states that organizational management is responsible for all management reports from which the audit procedures were conducted. The basis of accounting does not include any plant fund items, such as buildings and properties that are already accounted for by the University, and focuses only on operational activities. Also included is the

management discussion and analysis in which the auditors detail the differences found in this fiscal year compared to previous years. Some differences are due to the excess of activities in the 14/15 fiscal year, making it an unusual year. Derrek thanked the Garden's Senior Accountant, Elisa Pierce, for her assistance in getting the auditors everything they needed.

b. Budget Report

Henry Wurts directed the Board's attention to the revenue expense statement. Total revenues from fiscal year 15/16 to 16/17 increased from \$5.8 million to \$6.8 million, an increase of approximately \$950,000. Concert revenues increased \$1.09 million from \$3.2 million to \$4.29 million due to the fact that we had five more concerts in the first quarter than we did last year. Expenses also increased from \$4.6 million to \$5.7 million, an increase of \$1.1 million. ZAP revenue decreased from \$668,000 to \$334,000 due to a change in accounting reporting.

IV. Water Conservation Garden Opening

Marketing is creating materials for the event including; banners for the Garden and around town, press invitations, event info mailed with water bills, TRAX and bus ads, University Union building display, info on ZAP and sustainability blogs, billboards, and radio ads. Additionally, we plan to target the Southwest part of the valley with marketing to reach an audience who doesn't normally come to the Garden.

The Water Conservation Garden Donor Event / Ribbon Cutting is May 17, right after the Advisory Board meeting. Invitations will be sent out soon. Small, docent-guided tours will be offered and there will also be a few speakers, including Greg. Development is currently working on procuring some sponsors for the event who may want to provide gifts for attendees or monetary support.

The Grand Public Opening of the Water Conservation Garden will be May 20. Wendy thanked Sandi Behnken whose support will allow us to offer free admission for all children on that day. This perk will be promoted via the Botany Bin and Grow Lab programs all over the Salt Lake Valley. Programming from 10 am – 3 pm includes: drop-in classes, Exploration Stations, docent-guided tours, and a performance at noon by the Wasatch Eagle Dancers. There will also a lecture from 7 pm – 8 pm by Tres Fromme, the garden's designer. The marketing department is working on several promotional pieces that the Advisory Board will be encouraged to share with their friends, family, and social circles. There will also be collaboration with the University of Utah's publications internal and external. David Gee mentioned hearing about a lot of interest in a plant listing of the Water Conservation Garden, which we will be able to provide.

V. Project Update

a. Water Conservation Garden

As of this meeting date, the Water Conservation Garden is 70% complete. One-third of the garden needs to be planted, some irrigation still needs installation, and steel and stone work. In conjunction with this garden's opening, we are developing a Master Interpretive Plan. Two firms, Portico and Acorn, are being brought in to create temporary signage for the garden that we can use in the rest of the Garden for a cohesive message and design. We plan to gather guest feedback on the signage and messaging and using it to inform a Garden-wide Master Interpretive Plan.

b. Horticulture Facility

Last week, the 25-year-old double wide trailer that used to serve as the Horticulture offices was finally demolished. The estimated completion date for the new facility is December 2017. The Horticulture staff is currently working out of rented temporary trailers. Phase 1 of the new service drive is underway. Groundbreaking on the building itself is scheduled for next week.

c. Amphitheatre Merchandise Pad Expansion

The area of the Amphitheatre where the concessions trailer and merchandise tents are during concerts is being expanded. Completion is scheduled for before the Spring Plant Sale in May.

d. Other Projects

A concept study for the Creekside Walk is underway. This 500-yard section of Red Butte Creek would be a unique experience in the Salt Lake Valley.

We are developing a feasibility study in conjunction with MJSA Architects for expanding our parking lot. We foresee needing more parking as the Garden grows.

We are also working with MJSA on developing plans for expansion of the Orangerie, our main event space, so it can accommodate bigger events.

Garden staff have been giving support to the Orson Spencer Hall (OSH) Building remodel. A piece of that building's landscape will be an extension of the Water Conservation Garden, which will hopefully be used to educate the public on waterwise practices.

We are also providing support and consultation to the greater University of Utah Landscaping Master Plan, being developed with MGBA Architects.

VI. Conservation Department Overview

Bruce Pavlik, the Conservation Department Director, gave a short overview of the department's ongoing projects and accomplishments. The Conservation Department is small and relatively unknown due to the fact that the majority of the work they do take places offsite in various locations around the state, which has been going on for over 25 years. The department's mission includes conserving rare plants, developing useful plants, and improving land management practices. Upon Bruce's hiring two years ago, he was asked to increase the scientific sophistication of the projects being completed.

One of the main ongoing projects that the Conservation Department runs is seed collecting. Seeds are collected to catalog rare plants, as part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Seeds of Success program, and as part of Red Butte's Roadside Ruderals program. Red Butte has worked for many year with the Center for Plant Conservation to collect rare plant seeds and store them in our seed bank as a hedge against extinction. Seeds of Success deals with native plants that can be used to restore and rehabilitate well pads and other highly disturbed natural sites. In 2016, seeds from eleven species were collected. Finally, the Roadside Ruderals program identifies plants that do well in disturbed, high traffic areas (like roadsides).

The next project monitors how plants attract and support pollinators. Different plants provide different benefits (pollen, nectar) to a variety insects. This is measured using technology from the UK called Rana, which is a video camera that only records when it detects activity on the plant it's pointed at. This technology has the ability to condense several days or weeks' worth of monitoring into a few hours of data and it does this without constant human interaction. Dr. Sarah Barlow, from Kew Gardens in the UK, was brought to Utah to facilitate the Rana set up at Rio Mesa and Red Butte Garden proper. Once the data is collected, staff can score how many times different pollinators visit a particular plant to create a Visitor Support Index and determine which plants support the greatest number and diverse population of insects. The Board expressed interest in receiving a list of plants that are very good for local pollinators.

Finally, Bruce and his team have been involved in post-mining landscape restoration and rehabilitation. In Northern Arizona, a gypsum mining company, Black Rock Gypsum, attempted landscape rehabilitation in the early 1990s by putting down waste rock called gypsum red fines. The Garden's Conservation staff evaluated the site last year (20 years later) and found that the vegetation that had taken root was native plants with no weed cover. We then established three sites to perform controlled restoration experiments. Some sections had a layer of Gypsum red fines

laid down and some sections only had the top soil agitated, and both areas were seeded with native seeds. We are monitoring how well the individual plants far and will be comparing it to a control site that hasn't seen any mining-related disturbances.

For 2017, the Conservation Department will continue Rana monitoring on native plants for two projects: to determine why a certain rare plant set very low seeds and how to better improve forbs that support habitat for Sage Grouse. Bruce has also submitted a project to National Science Foundation (NSF) in conjunction with the Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU) for studying Utah's native potato. This plant is often found at archeological sites which points to historical use of the potato for 10,000 years or more.

Bruce thanked his staff and volunteer team for helping to get all these projects underway. The Board had several questions for Bruce including: the length of time before mining sites can be considered fully restored, the size of mining sites that require rehabilitation, whether UDoT is involved with the Roadside Ruderals Program, how long seeds in the seed bank remain viable, and if the Board can plant rare seeds to help pollinators. Bruce asked the Board if they had any contacts in the mining industry to pass any helpful information along.

VII. Staff Report

There were no questions on the Staff Report.

Adjournment 4:50 pm