

**Jensen-Olson Arboretum  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 12, 2009, 5:15pm  
Jordan Creek Business Center, 8800 Glacier Hwy**

**Call to Order: 5:15 pm**

**I. Roll call**

**Present:** Ed Buyarski, Bobby Lee Daniels, Linda Frame, Peter Froehlich, Patricia Harris, Natalee Rothaus, Deb Rudis, Suzanne Sakewitz

**Absent:** Jackie Lorensen

**Staff Liaison present:** Marc Matsil, Merrill Jensen

**PRAC Liaison:** Ray Howard

**Public testimony on non-agenda items**

None

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved.

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

August 19, 2009 minutes approved

**IV. Chair Report:**

No Chair report

**V. Director's/Manager's Report: Merrill Jensen**

Mr. Jensen reported the following items:

- State of Alaska has promised sign re-installation following winter; however, date is not known.
- Fall clean up and winterization of grounds: the bears are no longer feeding on Mountain Ash berries – damaged branches have been pruned and mulched; water faucets and hoses have been turned off and drained; portable toilet has been removed; vegetable beds have been mulched with seaweed.
- Deer passing through the property have unearthed new plantings. These have been re-planted and staked.
- The first of two memorial benches has been delivered and placed. Second bench to arrive by the end of the month.
- Fundraiser for paperwhite and amaryllis bulbs were ordered. Building maintenance pumped the septic tank. There is no written record of the last time the tank was pumped.
- Building maintenance re-weatherized the sunroom construction area in preparation for winter exposure.
- The second label list, which completes expenditure of the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust grant was compiled and sent to the label maker for production. This brings to 465 the total number of plant labels on the grounds.

- Two groups of students visited the Arboretum to dig potatoes. UAS literature students studying food sources dug potatoes which went into storage for use later in the fall. DZ middle school students dug potatoes for use in a school potato feed.
- Results of the potato virus indexing show Potato Virus X and Latent Potato Virus. These findings effectively curtail the use of these potatoes as future seed stock.
- Trail Mix completed work of the trail adjacent to and crossing the Arboretum. The trail can be named – Mr. Jensen will bring a name suggestion to the next meeting after speaking with Trail Mix Executive Director.
- Mr. Jensen presented a program on the Arboretum, its history, and future plans at the Islands and Oceans Visitor’s Center in Homer during his vacation.
- Mr. Jensen initiated discussion with staff members at Georgeson Botanical Garden (UAF) and Alaska Botanical Garden in Anchorage about developing an Alaska Public Gardens Day state proclamation. The American Public Gardens Association holds a National Public Gardens Day celebration each year; however, that day is not conducive to an Alaska celebration due to seasonal variances.
- Mr. Jensen is starting initial research and drafts for two policies standard to public gardens: an invasive plant management policy and a plant collections policy.

## **VI. Action Items**

**A.** Election of Chair and Vice Chair – Ms. Harris was unanimously elected as Chair; Mr. Buyarski was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

## **VII. Information/Discussion Items**

**A.** Garden Party re-cap: final amount raised, \$5,996.39 - these funds have been placed in the Southeast Alaska Land Trust account; approximately 80 people attended; 113 tickets were sold; the entire Board suggested this be an annual event to occur at the same time each year; Ms. Harris suggested that the event take place earlier in the day so that more light would be available in the parking lot at Glacier Gardens; Ms. Rothaus recommended purchase of a \$75 restaurant gift certificate for the Bohay’s as an expression of gratitude for use of the location.

**B.** Disposition of fundraiser monies: The following is a list of possible expenditures – a shelter for benches placed at the Arboretum, grant match “seed” money for classroom space, apply to multi-purpose classroom capital improvement project, fund a short-term CD. It was also suggested that we put \$4,000 in a CD with the remaining money deposited in the SEAL Trust account for minor expenses.

**C.** Suggestions for improvements to future fund raisers: earlier in the day, numbered tickets for tracking purposes, tickets with stubs for door prize drawings, better outside lighting, a wine distributor suggested a Thursday evening event, date to be early in August or September.

**D.** Thank you letters: Ms. Harris has written all thank you letters.

**E.** Board vacancy: currently there is one vacancy on the Board. Ms. Frame is considering becoming an official board member as opposed to her current role as JSD Liaison. Mr. Froelich suggested Stella Fullam be contacted as a possible board member.

**F.** The Board welcomed new member, Deb Rudis.

**G.** Status of commercial user policy: Juneau Jeep Adventures will bring clients to the Arboretum beginning in 2010. Commercial use will be restricted to a maximum of 50 visitors per day.

**H.** Financial update: Mr. Matsil reported that as of October 31, the endowment totals \$2,005,000.

I. Friends of the Arboretum/501(c)3: Ms. Harris has not been able to work on this. It will be her winter project.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**A. Endowment Subcommittee:** No report

**B. Volunteer Committee:** No report and no chair; Deb Rudis has volunteered to be the new Chair.

**C. Fundraising Committee:** Ms. Sakewitz has sold 4 bricks; venues for future brick sales need to be researched. Gallery walks and future plant sales might be possibilities. She would also like to explore having Arboretum notecards designed and printed.

**D. Education/JSD Liaison:** No report

**IX. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to report.

**X. Board Comments**

The next Board meeting will be January 20, 2010, City Hall, Room 224.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.