

Friends of the Oak Park Conservatory

Annual Membership Meeting

June 11, 2020, via Zoom 7:00-9:00 pm

Attendance: FOPCON Board members: Heather Guido, President; Sue Boyer, Vice-president; Rebecca Callahan, Treasurer; Barbara Stratton; Barbara Hunt; Jeff Stewart; Inga Simitiz; Mary Kay Minaghen; Bonnie Engel; Kayla Chase; Linda Smith; Mary O’Kiersey; Ellen Kuner; Carol Einhorn; Kathy FioRito; Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture at the Conservatory Judy Klem, FOPCON Executive Director, David Wick; Park District Board Member FOPCON Liaison.

An audio file of proceedings is available from Judy Klem, Executive Director.

Topic	Discussion	Action
Call to order		President Heather Guido called the meeting to order at 8:05 after an introduction to the event by Judy Klem, Executive director
President’s message	Heather Guido reviewed the past year’s events and our Mission highlights. She complimented our fine staff: Judy Klem, Executive Director; Andrea Lofgren, Operations Coordinator; and Nancy Silver, Volunteer and Programs Coordinator; Discussed the various programs ie Tours, Uncorked, Kids Fest, Garden Walk, Plant Sale, Exploration Station, TET, and the very popular DGET program. Over 7,000 hours of service were given and \$25,000 was granted to the Conservatory. In 2020 we found much of our programming canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions. We placed the Plant Sale totally online and found the public very supportive of the sale.	
Executive Director Report	Judy Klem just completed her first year as Executive director. She provided added information about the transition of the Plant Sale to an online model with curbside pickup. In June we provide our first virtual program on Native Plants. In July Story Time we will begin in the Discovery Garden, Uncorked will change into a smaller event for only 42 and be held Aug 23 and Sept 25 maintaining Covid-19 restrictions. Judy wrote a grant that was supported by the OPRFHS Future Philanthropists group of the Oak Park Community Foundation and received \$2,500 to begin a bus grant program for schools outside of Oak Park to be able to visit the Conservatory. Plans for this are currently on hold until the Covid-19 restrictions in the local schools are lifted.	
Recognition of retiring Board Members: Sue Boyer, Vice-president	Sue thanked Heather Guido for her service and leadership to the Board. Heather will be finishing her term as president and be moving on to other professional opportunities. She will be missed.	

<p>Vote on New and Continuing Board Members: Inga Simitz, Chair of Nominating and Governance Committee</p>	<p>Inga asked for any additional nominations for board candidates from the floor. There were none. She introduced our two new Board members: Carol Einhorn and Kathy FioRito.</p>	<p>Carol Einhorn and Kathy FioRito and the following continuing Board members were approved by the membership to serve as Board members for a two-year term: Carol Dudzik, Ellen Kuner, Barbara Stratton, Jeff Stewart, Inga Simitz</p>
<p>Oak Park Conservatory Update: Patti Staley</p>	<p>Patti has been serving for the past 10 years as Directory of Horticulture and the Conservatory. She thanked all the FOPCON volunteers for supporting the Conservatory and discussed the volunteers from FOPCON who are serving as “adopt a park” volunteers during this time of restriction. Patti and her staff were considered essential workers and continued to raise the plants for the sale when volunteers were not allowed in the Conservatory. She also discussed the economic impact of the closure of the Conservatory and other park district programs as 50% of the Park District income comes from programming.</p>	<p>A question and answer period ended the presentation</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>		<p>The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held in June 2021.</p>