

## SASY Committee Report Form

Date of meeting: May 2013

Name of Committee: Olbrich Gardens Liaison

Liaison : Mark McFadden

Purpose (goal) of Committee: Liaison with Olbrich Gardens and Olbrich Botanical Society

Action items:

Specific issue(s) to report:

Olbrich Gardens recently completed a series of community meetings to help guide the development of a schematic plan for Olbrich Botanical Gardens' public buildings. Olbrich engaged an architectural firm, HGA, to facilitate those public meetings and to evaluate Olbrich's building space needs. The last of those meetings, the fifth in a series held in the spring, took place on May 20th.

The City of Madison recorded the meeting and you can see the video at the following link:

<http://media.cityofmadison.com:8093/Mediasite/Play/daf2428f5a83440596ddc985670faf7f1d>

The presentation that was used at that meeting is available as a PDF (warning, it's long: 65 slides and lots of helpful pictures) at this link:

<http://www.olbrich.org/about/documents/StakeholderMeeting5Presentation.pdf>

Comments are still welcome and can be sent to:

[olbrichdesignfeedback@cityofmadison.com](mailto:olbrichdesignfeedback@cityofmadison.com)

The price tag for the proposal is probably large enough that a phased approach would be needed to execute the plan. It's important to note that the division of costs between brand new construction and the repair of existing buildings is about 50%/50%. Even if Olbrich were to not proceed with expansion of its facilities, it would still have to repair the existing facilities and bring the 25-year-old building up to current city building code.

Any future new construction or expansion at Olbrich will be determined by the city and Olbrich Botanical Society regardless of where the financial resources come from. This has been true of all previous construction projects at the Gardens. Any new construction would be a city public works project because the City of Madison is the owner.

The final report from the architectural firm is due to be submitted later this month. In the meantime, Olbrich has formed a committee to examine the possibility of beginning a capital campaign to help raise funds for some or all of the expansion plans. In parallel, the leadership of the Olbrich Botanical Society

board of directors is scheduling meetings to discuss what steps to take next. Meetings are also beginning to be scheduled with Madison's Parks Department.

Quite clearly, no decisions have been made yet. Questions about the timing or implementation of Olbrich expansion simply do not have answers yet because no decisions have been made. In fact, the decision to attempt to raise funds for expansion is still in the "feasibility" stage.

Regarding the Garver building, a city engineering study is in the process of being completed and should be made public in the next two months. The results of that study and the conclusions of the report will likely go a long way toward deciding the eventual fate of the structure.

Recommendation(s): None. For information only.

Discussion items at board meeting: None. For information only.

Next meeting: June 2013