

Friends of the University of Alberta Botanic Garden
2020 Annual General Meeting: President's Report

1. Preface

The 2020 calendar year was surprising. Who had ever guessed that the entire world would be partially shutdown? At the end of April, 2020, it was doubtful whether the Botanic Garden would even open for the summer season. The surprise was that the Garden was not only able to open, but that it managed to implement new programs and meet expenses. The ability for the Garden to generate revenue has become increasingly important as base funding is no longer being provided by the University. The Garden did a truly remarkable job of managing through a very difficult year.

Garden Attendance 2020

There were approximately 100,000 visits to the Garden (includes January/February 2021). This includes individual visits to the Garden and visits in conjunction with events.

Admissions: Between June 1, 2020 and Oct12, 2020 a total of 58,285 individuals come through on day visits to the Garden. This included 6902 Kids and students that came in the free offering for kids and students (Sept 1 - Oct 12, 2020). Annual passes included 170 individual passes, 59 family passes, and 177 Garden Experience Passe (121 orders, 56 adding in a 2nd person).

Events:

- Twilight Picnics (June 10 - Oct 11, 2020): 8172 people
- Halloween (Oct 30 - Nov 1, 2020): Approximately 1,565 people based on an average of 3 people per group.
- Luminaria (Dec 1, 2021 - Jan 31, 2021): 30,078 people

2. Financial Status (as of December 31, 2020)

Casino Account: \$49,063.10

Current Account: \$35,090.61

Savings Account: \$275.93

Endowment Fund Contributions (unofficial):

E5050 - UofA Botanic Garden Endowment - AS OF FEB 28, 2021:

Book Value - \$386,277.97

Market Value - \$1,225,071.85

ESTIMATED spending allocation for FY22 - \$45,458.25

E5066 - Kurimoto Japanese Garden Endowment - AS OF FEB 28, 2021:

Book Value - \$961,936.03

Market Value - \$2,684,116.36

ESTIMATED Spending Allocation for FY22 - \$99,598.43

3. Memberships

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| - 1 year individual: 61 | - 5 year family: 8 |
| - 5 year individual: 5 | - Lifetime: 2 |
| - 1 year senior: 58 | - 1 year student: 3 |
| - 5 year senior: 15 | - 5 year student: 0 |
| - 1 year family: 48 | - 1 year child: 2 |

4. FOG 2020 Transfers to the Garden

In 2020 we transferred \$5000 in March from our current account to the Garden to be used towards Green School. In December we made a large donation of \$78,120.10 to the Garden to cover several maintenance costs such as fuel, equipment, seeds, etc.

5. FOG Events

Except for the August Annual General Meeting there were no events held in 2020 due to Covid restriction. FOG did help support Luminaria phoning and volunteers. The FOG Board met through ZOOM calls each month July through December. Ideas were suggested for possible

course/workshops into the future. Ideas include tools, beginner gardening, pruning, composting, container planting, winter container displays. Members are invited to suggest workshop ideas. A 50th Anniversary celebration was also discussed. FOG will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021.

FOG Garden Articles & Stories

Commenced collecting information and writing articles and stories for the FOG website. Some entries from previous Garden walks, others about particular plants of people in the Garden. The FOG website requires a major overhaul, but once we have a new platform, expect to see more information on the website overtime. Members are invited to submit information and photos they would like to see on the website.

Plant Sale

Discussions ere initiated regarding a FOG hosted plant sale to be ongoing through the growing season and possibly into the fall and inter. FOG members to be given priority access to plants.

6. Looking Ahead

The Friends organization is celebrating our 50th year in 2021. At one point, FOG had 1,000 members and contributed a significant portion of the Garden's revenue. FOG ran the gift shop and hosted a number of events. Luminaria was initiated by FOG. Over the years, the Garden grew to the point that volunteers were no longer sufficient to meet the Garden's requirements. FOG moved more into the background. Recently, the U of A changed the Garden's funding structure and moved the Garden from Agriculture, Life and Environment Sciences to Facilities and Operations. FOG began meeting with Garden management late in in 2020 to look at how FOG might better contribute to the Garden. We are renewing our relationship with the Botanic Garden. We are working towards the common goals of increasing Garden attendance and participation in Garden events, securing additional funding, continuing to provide FOG member benefits and enhancing overall visitor experiences. The future holds exciting possibilities as FOG works with the U of A to realize the Garden's full potential.