

HARRY P. LEU GARDENS BOARD

March 25, 2026 Minutes

The Harry P. Leu Gardens Board of Trustees held its regular meeting virtually on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. **The meeting was called to order by William Scott Lloyd, Chair, at 8:03 a.m. announcing a quorum present:**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: [12 meetings scheduled; **(5 Held, 1 Cancelled)** year-to-date for 2025-26 fiscal year]
William Scott Lloyd, (5/0) Chair Gabrielle Russon, (5/0)
Audrey Jones, (4/1) Vice Chair Carla Shuman, (4/0)
Andrew Kelly, (2/0) Angela Territo, (5/0)
Richard McCaffrey, (4/1)

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Paul Oppedisano, Director, Friends of Leu Gardens Board
Alan Williams, Leu Gardens' member, Lake Front City Resident and member of Friends of Loch Haven Chain of Lakes organization
Kelli Tanner, no information available
Nat Prap, no information available

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer D'hollander, Executive Director, Harry P. Leu Gardens
Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary, Harry P. Leu Gardens

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were four attendees from the public attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- Nominating Committee February 25, 2026 Board Minutes
- February 25, 2026 Leu Board Minutes (**Attachment**)
- 2026 February Financial Report (**Attachment**)
- Education & Volunteers Report (**Attachment**)
- Guest Services, Membership & Rentals Report (**Attachment**)
- Events and Marketing Report (**Attachment**)
- Horticulture Report (**Attachment**)

The Leu Gardens Board reviewed the items listed under approval of the consent agenda.

It was moved by Gabrielle Russon and seconded by Richard McCaffrey to approve the Consent Agenda items for February 2026 as listed above. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

A. Attendance, Update

Ms. D'hollander reported on February 2026 attendance and noted that February attendance had been affected by the hard freezes and had a little downturn. We also started what was going to be our exhibit a little bit later this year, in early March.

Andrew Kelly joined the meeting at 8:07 a.m.

B. Staffing Update

We are currently posting the positions of facilities manager, horticulture specialist, and assistant director for almost a month.

I have revised the facilities manager position. Originally that position managed weddings, rentals, and facilities of the campus support for setting up our internal events and keeping track of maintenance and custodial operations.

I have shifted that position to focus on custodial, maintenance and larger remodeling projects, and rehabilitations, and working with our contractors and our city vendors. Weddings and rental sales have been shifted to guest services department under the direction of Laura Beers.

C. Master Plan Update

The conceptual draft has been finished. We are taking a moment to work on our communications and address the community and some residents on some specific points of concern. We have also scheduled another community meeting, on Monday, April 27, 2026, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Leu Gardens. I just finished the community flyer regarding this meeting (**attached**).

Ms. D'hollander commented that It is very important that we do all this work that we're doing to stay relevant, and to preserve our beautiful gardens while making sure we have a modern infrastructure, and ways to support ourselves and engage with the public. Once we have strong public support and feedback, the next phase is design development.

Ms. Russon commented that she is aware of the feedback from a handful of homeowners that have lakefront property, but she hopes we are also getting feedback from the residents in the North Colonial Town area. Ms. Russon desired feedback from members and families that use Leu Gardens, what they want not just focusing on lakefront homeowners. Input from everybody that would be affected by this positively and negatively is the goal.

Ms. Russon noted that after reading the Sentinel story, including Commissioner Roger Chapin's letter, it seemed as if he was against the plan. Ms. Russon requested if Ms. D'hollander could elaborate on her discussion with him and his feelings on the project.

Ms. D'hollander shared that she met with Commissioner Chapin and they had a good discussion. There are some points that he has questions about, and she doesn't know that we have his full support yet, felt like it will be forthcoming when we can clarify some of those details.

Ms. D'hollander noted the master plan is an ongoing discussion right now and with Commissioner Chapin not yet decided. She made that very clear to the rest of the City commissioners and was very transparent about everyone's feelings and thoughts about the plan.

Mr. Lloyd shared with the Board his discussion with Margaret Shan Atkins, who is in the leadership for the Friends of the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes, and their primary concern is about the storm drainage and the water quality. The discussion was very productive and enlightening about a study they had commissioned for the stormwater issues that we heard a lot about in the first community meeting. There's a report they had commissioned from the St. Johns River Water Management District and CDM Smith. He will send the report to Ms. Ashman, and any Board member may request it from her.

Ms. D'hollander shared that we now have communication support from the City's marketing and neighborhood department to help promote the meeting to the public.

Mr. Lloyd also noted that the Friends of the Loch Haven Chain of Lakes represent about 400 residents that are not only around our Lake Rowena but also lakes Sioux, Estelle, and Formosa.

Carla Shuman suggested in the chat meeting feature about adding the community meeting to Leu's website and sending meeting flyers to the neighbors.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discussion ensued regarding cancelling June 24, 2026 Leu Board meeting.

It was moved by Richard McCaffrey and seconded by Audrey Jones to approve cancelling June 24, 2026 Leu Board meeting. There was no discussion. It was approved by all as presented.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Ms. D'hollander updated the Board on Dazzling Nights Contract negotiations for 2026-2029. The Board members approved renegotiating the contract and continuing the partnership with Dazzling Nights.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lloyd highlighted some dates, The Jazz and Blues Concert, on April 11, 2026, noting it was one of his favorite events and what first introduced him to the Gardens.

There being no further business to conduct, **the meeting adjourned at 8:27 a.m. It was moved by Andrew Kelly and seconded by Richard McCaffrey.** There was no discussion. It was approved by all.

The next in-person Harry P. Leu Gardens Board meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2026.

Antoinette Ashman, Recording Secretary