

Northern Plains
Botanic Garden Society

2015

Annual Report

A Message from the President

For two years I have been expressing hope that either or both Fargo and Moorhead would help NPBGS find land to build a botanic garden. After losing the ability to further develop the north Fargo site (where we have invested over \$400,000 in cash and volunteer hours), we developed a plan to create gardens along the river in both Fargo and Moorhead; a Japanese garden here, an arboretum there, display gardens at yet another site, perhaps a conservatory as the entrance to one of the new buildings being designed as part of the revitalization of downtown Fargo. NPBGS has asked to be part of the conversation and planning for this revitalization. We have much to offer to the two communities which have spent thousands in consultant fees to learn what will keep their young people and also draw new industry to our area.

We have a well-thought out business plan. We are not asking the cities to fund our project. We will raise our own funds and pay to design and staff the various sites. All we are asking for is a place to create a beautiful environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. We don't want to replace gardens that either city has already created, we want to add to them! We want to help.

In March of 2014, a motion was made at a Fargo City Commission meeting to find us three acres of land for the Japanese Garden. The motion passed. Nothing has happened.

In 2012 the Moorhead City Council approved a plan to lease NPBGS land on the former power plant site. We continue to be in negotiation with the City of Moorhead, hammering out a lease agreement. However, there seem to be internal issues between the City and Moorhead Public Service that prevent a final agreement being made for using this land. The Moorhead City Council has been given a date of May 1, 2016, to get the issue resolved. If resolved, we will enter into an "Option Agreement" for a two-year period. Once 2.5 million is raised during that period, we'll enter into the "Lease Agreement" and proceed with construction.

I deeply regret that I am unable to announce this evening that we definitely have a site for our Japanese garden and that it is time to start raising funds for our wonderful project. My frustration and disappointment run very deep.

Income & Expense Statement 01/01/14 – 12/31/14

Ordinary Income/Expenses

Income

43400 – Direct Public Support

43450 – Individual, Business Contributions	9,385.70
43460 – Annual Pledges	1,050.00
43470 – Annual Membership Dues	6,338.71
43480 – Memorials	100.00

Total 43400 – Direct Public Support 16,874.41

45000 – Investments

45030 – Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	18.34
45000 – Investments – Other	2.94

Total 45000 – Investments 21.28

47200 – Program Income

47250 – Garden and Indoor Plant Design	2,770.62
47260 – West Acres Contract	29,699.64
47300 – Events – Ticket Sales	7,942.00
47310 – Events – Revenue	7,891.00
47320 – Events – Sponsorships	3,500.00
47330 – Events – Donations	151.00

Total 47200 – Program Income 51,954.26

Total Income 68,849.95

Gross Profit 68,849.95

Expense

60900 – Business Expenses

60950 – Dues & Subscriptions	1,250.00
Total 60900 – Business Expenses	1,250.00

62100 – Contract Services

62110 – Accounting Fees	1,050.00
62140 – Legal Fees	3,250.00
62150 – Outside Contract Services	7,008.65
62160 – Consulting Fees- Executive Director	30,250.00

Total 62100 – Contract Services 41,558.65

62800 – Facilities and Equipment	
62840 – Equipment Rental and Maintenance	2,271.99
62870 – Property Insurance	840.00
62880 – Repairs and Maintenance	237.02
62890 – Rent, Parking, Utilities	1,185.20
 Total 62800 – Facilities and Equipment	 4,534.21
 63000 – Information Technology	
63100 – Giftworks Web Subscription	1,320.00
63200 – Pay Pal Fees	13.81
63300 – Website	1,642.50
63400 – Hardware/Software	245.72
63500 – Merchant Service Fee	813.33
 Total 63000 – Information Technology	 4,035.36
 64000 – Program Expenses	
64100 – Events – Supplies	600.61
64200 – Events – Food	4,972.57
64175 – Events – Other Expenses	519.24
64300 – Public Relations Expenses	5,591.31
64300 – West Acres Project Expenses	2,025.26
64400 – Gardening Expenses	970.89
 Total 64000 – Program Expenses	 14,679.88
 65000 – Operations	
65020 – Postage, Mailing Service	170.10
65030 – Printing and Copying	5,813.83
65040 – Supplies	483.22
65050 – Telephone, Telecommunications	482.50
 Total – Operations	 6,949.65
 65100 – Other Types of Expenses	
65120 – Insurance – Liability, D and O	1,244.00
65160 – Other Costs	7.94
 Total 65100 – Other Types of Expenses	 1,251.94

68300 – Travel and Meetings	
68310 – Conference, Convention, Meeting	48.51
68320 – Travel	3,786.59
Total 68300 – Travel and Meetings	3,835.10
Total Expense	78,094.79
Net Ordinary Income	-9,244.84
Net Income	-9,244.84

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

11100 – Bell State Checking	14,108.79
11200 – Bell State Money Market Savings	
11210 – Savings Unrestricted	5,718.44
11220 – Japanese Garden Fund	5,195.60
11230 – Building Fund – Japanese Garden Only	3,519.00
11240 – Memorial for Alma T Tucker	225.00
11250 – Iris Garden – Irene Rust Memorial	1,164.00
11260 – Reserved for Executive Director Fees	857.00

Total 11200 – Bell State Money Market Savings	16,679.04
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11300 – Alerus Financial CD	4,155.82
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Total Checking/Savings	34,943.65
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Accounts Receivable

11000 – Accounts Receivable	2,240.68
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Total Accounts Receivable	2,240.68
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Other Current Assets

12000 – Undeposited Funds	-1,173.00
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Total Other Account Assets	-1,173.00
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Total Current Assets	35,911.33
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Total Current Assets	35,911.33
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 – Accounts Payable	150.00
Total Accounts Payable	150.00
Total Current Liability	150.00
Total Liabilities	150.00
Equity	
32000 – Unrestricted Net Assets	45,006.17
Net Income	-9,244.84
Total Equity	35,761.33
Total Liabilities and Equity	35,911.33

Building Committee Report

The Building Committee will have a full plate in the near future. Once we have a long-term agreement with Moorhead, MN to develop the “Power Plant site”, we can begin to develop the 3.8 acres of land. Some of the construction will be less exciting over other aspects, but important none the less. We will need to have civil engineering to design access to the required infrastructure utilities and then the installation of those utilities can begin, with the site needing water, sewer, and electrical. Upon completion of the utilities, the final grading can be achieved.

Sadafumi Uchiyama will be asked to design our garden. We have sent him pictures of the new location and he is quite excited with the view overlooking the Red River.

With the proper channels, we are hopeful to have the funding available to drill a well at the site for irrigation and a water supply for the proposed ponds.

Membership Committee Report

This past year continued to have its challenges for our committee and due to restructuring and land issues, our membership has dropped to approximately 164 members. This was the first year to have all members renew in the month of January for the year to keep better records of our current members and to make it easier for our members to remember when dues are payable. Reminder notices will be sent out the month prior to our annual renewal month. With the help of our members and a possible new land acquisition for our project, we are hopeful our membership base will make healthy increases.

Gardens Committee Report

The gardening year began with the annual spring plant sale at the greenhouse. For 2015 the committee decided to analyze the previous year's sales and choose varieties and quantities to plant accordingly. Unusual varieties were also chosen to intrigue our repeat customers. This more "scientific" approach paid off with fewer plants left at the end of the sale. Some leftover plants were donated to the Food Pantry Garden and others were planted in the NPBGS gardens.

Some highlights of the year include having the wisteria entwining the latticed bench bloom for the first time, harvesting 15 pounds of grapes from the heirloom grapevines growing on the pergola and resurrecting the Alphabet Garden.

We continued to maintain the Circle gardens in front of the Japanese gate, the Woodland garden, the Bridge/pond garden, the planted stumps, the Hummingbird, Alerus Financial Butterfly, and Rain gardens. The plantings in front of the greenhouse featured yellow blooms this year. The group managed to keep these gardens growing and blooming even though fewer volunteers came out to help.

We also decided to add a sensory garden to the center of the Alphabet Garden next year. A new volunteer, Natasha DePlazes, recruited some NDSU horticulture and landscape design students to come up with a design that includes the five senses: sight, sound, smell, taste and touch. Then she found some Eagle Scout candidates to build this new garden area. This will be an interactive garden that will appeal to both children and adults. Each "sense" will be illustrated with appropriate plants. The sound section of the garden was started this year with a few plants and will include a xylophone later.

As in other years the gardens attracted many individuals and small groups for photo shoots. Everything from weddings and engagement pictures to graduation and baby pictures took place around the stumps, on the bridge and in the Woodland garden. Many visitors strolled through the gardens and a few groups requested tours. Many individuals expressed their appreciation and gratitude for these beautiful gardens!

Program Report

August

Concrete Birdbath and Stepping Stones Workshop: Participants will construct a concrete birdbath and/or stepping stones made by sandcasting rhubarb and /or hosta leaves. Leaves will be available or you can bring your own. Please bring your own rubber/latex gloves as all other materials will be provided. Workshop is limited to 15 participants.

NPBGS 17th Annual Meeting Minutes

March 18th, 2015 7:00 p.m.

West Acres Community Room, Fargo ND

President Jim Anderson welcomed guests and members in attendance. The program was an audio-visual presentation NPBGS has made to Fargo-Moorhead leadership groups. Jim reviewed the NPBGS vision of gardens on both sides of the Red River, including a Japanese Garden, Conservatory and Arboretum. The land at the former Moorhead Power Plant site is being considered as the Japanese Garden location, and Moorhead leaders seem to favor a long-term lease for the property. Another small area (approximately 3 acres) is being sought in Fargo, although a specific site has not been discussed. The current schematic was available for viewing.

Business Meeting

Jim Anderson, President, called the 17th Annual Meeting to order. Jim reminded those present that only members of NPBGS are permitted to take action on business matters.

Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report was reviewed, including the President's Message and Committee Reports.

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bill Fradet presented the 2014 Income and Expense Statement. The report showed Total Current Assets, Liabilities & Equity of \$44,996. A motion was made to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded and carried.

West Acres

John Zvirovski, Vice President, talked about the NPBGS partnership with West Acres, which has grown substantially from its inception in 2011. It began with the design and placement of greenery in the fountain area of the JCPenney wing, and has increased to seasonal/quarterly change-outs of the indoor greenery and seasonal outdoor planter arrangements. This has become a beneficial annual funding stream for NPBGS, beginning at \$10,000 and currently at \$30,000. John also described a design project done in spring 2014 at the Blue Stem offices in south Moorhead with the design and placement of a botanic feature there. NPBGS continues to care for the NRI Atrium, a long-standing partnership benefitting both entities.

Fundraising

Jim introduced Jackie Williams, Executive Director. She noted the 2015 West Acres Fresh Market will again be included in the West Acres partnership, with NPBGs receiving a portion of vendor booth rental fees. The location will be moved to the West side of the mall complex, providing better access for vendors and customers.

Jackie addressed the group about the Society's financial goals as the possibility of a new site comes closer. A fundraising effort is being planned to secure large gifts and endowments so that when a site is finalized, funding will be available to begin the project.

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee had no nominations for the open positions on the Board of Directors. Jim called for nominations from the floor. None were made and nominations closed. Contact has been made with Don Kinzler, who is interested in serving on the Board, but could not make a commitment by this meeting. Jim will meet with him in the coming weeks and if he is willing, Don will be appointed as a member of the Board at that time.

Awards

Cynthia Herfindahl, Events Coordinator, was named 2014 Member of the Year. Jackie Williams was recognized as the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. They each received a plaque and gift of appreciation.

Upcoming Events

Tickets were available for the 12th Annual Luncheon and Container Garden Show in May, with Don Kinzler as the featured speaker and entertainment by Borderline

Strings. The annual Plant Sale will be held in late May at the Greenhouse. Wine and Insect Pairing is scheduled at the HoDo in June.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Door prize drawings were done and everyone enjoyed refreshments.

Board of Directors

Jim Anderson – President

John Zvirovski – Vice President

Elly Heinz – Secretary

Bill Fradet – Treasurer

Cathi Tiedeman

Paula Grimestad

Tim Kennedy

Don Kinzler