

Draft - SDBG Docent-Volunteer Meeting Agenda

September 4th, 2019

9.30 am. Call to Order and Pledge

Announcements Allan Dodds, Chair. Reminder to send VOM nominations to the Docents at Large.

CEO Quarterly Report - Ari. Thanks to all for everyone's hard work. A number of projects are being done as the Trustee Board passed the budget for the fiscal year. After audit, the Garden Budget for this year is \$3.4 million on expenses, a 9% increase over last year. This will realize more money for more staff, training and development. There will be more funds for facilities upgrades and advance care of collections, important as we are a collection based garden and there is a need to operationalize spaces. This will be a big year for strategic planning, which will be an inclusive process. There will be more opportunities for volunteers going forward.

Staff changes include Susanne Brueckner, now Director of Public Events.. The new Education Manager is to be determined. Liz Dill will be the new Office Manager. A search is on for a new Maintenance Manager.

The Dickinson Conservatory is almost done, however it is not open to the public at this time.

There will be a soft opening in October followed by a hard opening in December for Botanic Wonderland. The remodel of the Horticulture and Maintenance buildings begins Monday next week and is expected to be finished by June of next year. This will free up the Larabee and Lawn houses. Construction on a new greenhouse is expected within the next month. Improvements to the Gift Shop, restrooms and pathways will be done in December and January. There is now money to re-roof Ecke, and the shade structure will be done in the next 12 months.

Fund a need will be announced at the Gala to help with improvements.

What is the intent of the Docent Society? Goals are to preserve the Society and move the program forward in the future. Want to offer in depth training for all going forward.

Allan: The Docent Society Executive Board has passed a motion to form a committee to re-examine Docent and Volunteer Responsibilities. A committee comprised of volunteers and docents will be appointed by Allan in the near future to discuss.

Plant of the Month. John Clements. The plant is *spathodea campanulata* from

South Africa, otherwise known as the African tulip tree. It has soft wood and comes with orange or yellow flowers with a bean-like seed pod. Fast growing in warmer months.

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings

August Minutes - Linda Cooper, Secretary. Approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Gail Earnest. September had an ending balance of \$3,856.14.

Dates to Remember - See the Garden website for current listings.

Volunteer of the Month - Danuta Marquez introduced by Shahla Dreyer. Born in Poland, Danuta's family grew vegetables and flowers, instilling a love of plants and nature. Danuta joined SDBG after retiring from 27 years as a bookkeeper and office manager for Albertsons. She volunteers at many events and is on the undersea garden and topiary team. She has also worked in propagation, the herb garden and the subtropical fruit garden.

Opportunity Drawing - Ed Beimel and Dianna Burke

Coordinator and Committee Reports - Susan Starr, Vice-Chair

Special Events. See Garden website for dates and information.

Docent Training - Liz Woodward and Jeff Clingan. Liz announced four new docents, Mariia Koretskaya, Suzie Schwartz, Paul Schofield and Andréi Chernov. Fall DIT classes start on 9/5, and are now full. Liz introduced Jeff Clingan, the new Docent Coordinator Co-Chair.

Tour Guides - Mike Blanco. The next tour guide meeting will be on Thursday, September 12th at 10 am in Ecke. Rhana Kozak will discuss her trip to Costa Rica and shade-grown coffee. Rhana also does forest bathing classes.

Garden Beautification - Faith Meakin, Anna Dreilinger, and Barry Martin. Faith, all new dates are 9 am to noon and are listed on the website. Peggy Bruce will take over Deb Batey's position as team leader in the Fire Safety Garden. Still need a Team leader in the South African Garden.

Anna announced three Saturday GB's in September:

Saturday, September 14: Bamboo Garden - Barry Martin and Mary Cozza

Saturday, September 21: South African Garden - Anna Dreilinger

Saturday, September 28: Australian Garden - Priscilla Edwards

Propagation - Liz Rozycki. Liz and Faith are coordinating with the Overlook Succulent Garden to help spruce it up. Jill and Brandi will coordinate with Liz to find more volunteers who want to come to propagation on Wednesdays as Mondays have become too full.

Fall Plant Sale - Stacy Fattaleh. Need items for Botanic Attic by October 14th. Collection of plants must be okayed by Tony or Jeremy. Sign ups on the website

next week. Will need people to move plants. Plant Sale T-shirts will be ready Oct 1.

The Plant Sale committee meeting is next Wednesday. Please send in any suggestions. Need volunteers willing to bring lunches, will be sign-ups on the web, or bring your own.

Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. Book buddies will meet next month on the 2nd Wed and will choose books for the future. Email Barb with book suggestions.

Free Tuesday - Barb Farley. Yesterday was Free Tuesday, and was busy as usual.

Trip Trio - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Evon. Friday, September 13 is the trip to Solana Beach. Meet SDBG 9:30, or 10:00 at 424 Dell Court for those who live close. Lunch follows! Contact Evon MacKinnon. Peggy will be at site to greet those who live nearby. Lunch at Alfonso's after. Limit group to 35. Evon will call if on wait list.

Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin. Comments coming to D at L that are staff related are passed on.

Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Sue announced 2,000 Lifetime hours have been reached by Faith Meakin.

Fran thanked Mo Price and her team for the name tags. Volunteers over 10 hours receive a name tag. All new name tags are ready in Jill's office. DITs report hours to Fran.

Website - Nick Ruddick. Nick has updated the people pictures on the Docent and Volunteer website.

Staff Reports - Jill Gardner. There will be more volunteer opportunities in the office. Goal is to have the office phones covered by volunteers 5 days a week. There have been requests for those who cannot work in the garden to have other opportunities besides working in the garden.

Other Business - None.

Break for Refreshments - Lucille Brown and Leslie Duval

Speaker Program - "Australian and South African plants" by John Clements. Introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully, Linda Cooper, Secretary