

Docent-Volunteer Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

9.30 am. Call to Order and Pledge. Susan Starr, Chair

Docent Society Nominating Committee - Mo Price introduced Susan Starr as new Chair of the Docent Society, replacing Allan Dodds, who resigned at the December DEB meeting.

Mo also introduced and welcomed Jeff Clingan who was nominated by Susan Starr to be the new Vice Chair.

Per Docent Society Operating Regulations, Jeff's appointment was approved by a vote of the Docent Society Executive Board on December 18.

Changes to Meeting Agenda: Staff will report first.

Garden Updates/Introductions - Jill Gardner, Volunteer Manager

CEO Quarterly Update - Ari.

A big thanks to all who participated in Botanic Wonderland! It was a great success.

What to expect in 2020:

- Listening sessions have been informative and will be continued. Staff will work to improve communication with Volunteers. Susanne Brueckner will update members on events at each general meeting.
- Hiring for two Philanthropy and two gardener positions.
- The Conservatory will officially open February 3. Maps and visitor guides are being updated. An open house will be held for those who donated Garden tiles for the Conservatory. Meeting spaces are almost ready.
- Art displays in various forms will continue in the Ecke building.
- The new nursery greenhouse is completed. ADA work is going on around the Gift Shop, restrooms and Coffee shop. All are closed until ADA work is completed.
- Pacific Promenade and Visitor Center: \$250,000 has been raised to date, the first phase of goal for fund raising for the design process. Goal is to complete 1/2 of the design process by June and rest by end of year and begin construction by January 2021.
- Annual meeting is January 18, at 10am in Ecke. Sir Peter Crane will speak on Ginkgo trees.
- Plant Carbon Drawdown 2020 meeting symposium is March 5 and 6. SDBG is collaborating with the Salk Institute, Scripps and UCSD to look at future technology of how to use plants to mitigate the effect of climate change. Links and information will be sent out to register.
- The Garden is entering a phase of strategic planning and has signed a contract with two strategic planners who will specifically focus on data gathering, mission, impact, values, goals of the Garden. This is estimated to take 6 to 8 months and up to 2 years before implementation.
- Planning for parking improvements after the construction of Pacific Promenade. Improvements include resurfacing and restriping.
- The fiscal year report can be found on the website. The Garden has plenty of cash on hand. 43% of the funds have come from in-kind donations and services.

Plant of the Month - John Clements presented *Cupressus stephensonii*, one of the rarest plants in the world, with only about 40 specimens left. It is indigenous only to south slopes of Cuyamaca mountain. John is hoping to propagate here at the Garden.

Staff Updates and Introductions - Jill Gardner

Jill introduced Lane Kiefaber, Sr. Director of Strategy & Philanthropy, and Sara Sickler, Education Manager. Garden Happenings: The horticulture staff now has a new member.

Susanne Brueckner reviewed Garden events from 2019. Botanic Wonderland had 700 positions needed. 408 were filled. Hours just for that event totaled 1,632.

Upcoming events include Paw Walk, Got Green & Tomatomania, Art Fest in the Conservatory, Chocolate Festival, Fairy Festival, Insect Festival, Fall Plant Sale and Botanic Wonderland. Dates are on the Garden Website.

Brandi, Events 2020 - There will be continuing construction projects. No access currently to the back gate from the overflow parking through January. ADA improvements will continue into February affecting the Gift Shop, Restrooms and Coffee shop which will all be closed until complete.

The next Garden Ed class is on January 15th on weeds at 8:30 am in Ecke. There will be training sign-ups for Conservatory ambassadors.

Volunteer Updates - Susan Starr, Chair

VOM nomination forms are on website.

Sally Sandler - Will be sending out an update on Larabee House.

Calendar - All events are listed on the Garden website.

Hospitality - Lucille will have a new assistant, Kathy Pyle.

Early Bird and Overflow Parking Drawings

Approval of Minutes - Linda Cooper Secretary. November minutes approved as distributed.

Treasurer's End of Year Report - Gail Earnest. January 2019 starting balance was \$2800.26 and the year with \$4104.71.

Opportunity Drawing - Ed Beimel and Dianna Burke

Coordinator Reports - Jeff Clingan, Vice-Chair.

Recognitions

- Volunteer of the Month – Liz Tesolin introduced Frank Querques, a Docent since 2017. Frank is from New Jersey and has 3 children and 3 granddaughters. He has an MBA in the Property and Casualty Insurance industry. He enjoys being a Docent Ambassador, working in Propagation, Garden Beautification, Fall Plant Sale, Festival of Lights, Children's Pollinator program and more.
- New Docents - Liz Woodward and Jeff Clingan. Jeff introduced and thanked the latest group of new Docents who received their badges and certificates. January 30th starts the next class. Contact Jeff or Liz for info.
- New Volunteers – Jeff Clingan recognized new volunteers from the last 6 months.
- Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Volunteer and Docent Milestones were recognized.
- Directory Information Update - Nick Ruddick will be sending out an email to everyone after updating Google Groups with any changes for the Directory. It should be available at the April meeting.

Get Involved

- Tour Guides - Mike Blanco. Next meeting is January 9 at 10am in Ecke, followed by a program. Sara Sickler, the new Education Mgr will be on hand. There will be a presentation by Jeremy at 11:00 am in the Conservatory.
- Garden Beautification - Anna Dreilinger and Barry Martin- Anna thanked Faith who is stepping down from 2 years as coordinator. Dianna Burke has volunteered to take Faith's place as a GB coordinator. Alice Keener was introduced as a new team leader with Charlie Garren in Hamilton Children's Garden.
- Free Tuesday - Barb Farley thanked everyone for their help.
- Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. There is no meeting January. The next meeting is February 11 at noon in the Lawn House. The book is *Two for the Far North*.

- Trip Trio - Carol Eblen, Evon MacKinnon, and Peggy Overland. Carol will announce upcoming trips at the next meeting.
- Docents at Large - Shahla Dreyer and Liz Tesolin . No report.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:21

Linda Cooper, Secretary

Break for Refreshments - Lucille Brown

Speaker Program - Tony Gurnoe on Collecting Seeds. Introduced by Kathryn Blankinship.