

SDBG Docent & Volunteer Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2020

10:00 am. Call to order

Garden Updates - Jill Gardner, Volunteer Manager. Jill announced the following updates and reminders:

- Directories are now available for pickup at the check-in points in the Garden.
- Hours: Docents and Volunteers must still enter their hours on the Website.
- Please remember to vote for the SDBG for top Wedding Locations in San Diego! This is in the Reader, San Diego.
- Outdoor weddings are now taking place in the Lawn Garden Gazebo area. Receptions currently are not allowed.
- Yoga classes have also started.
- Everyone must wear face masks while in the Garden. Face shields are not acceptable.
- Plant Sales will soon be set up near the Conservatory in the picnic area.
- A children's interactive area will be open late September in the Eucalyptus Grove and part of the Seeds of Wonder Garden.
- An email about the SDBG Fall Fundraiser, *Garden to Table*, has been sent out.
- Two new Ipads for check-in at the Garden have been ordered.

Volunteer Updates - Susan Starr, Chair.

Announcements: Docent 80-hour requirement waiver. In light of the special circumstances at the Garden this year resulting from COVID-19, DEB has made the following adjustment: If you were an active Docent at the end of 2019, then you will be considered an active Docent for 2020. DITs who complete Docent training in 2020 will be an active Docent in 2021. The 2000-hour lifetime awardees are always exempt from hours requirement.

2020 Officer Slate - Mary Friestedt, Chair, Nominating Committee. The following officer slate will be voted on at the November meeting:

Chair - Susan Starr
Jeff Clingan - Vice-Chair
Donna Cancel - Secretary
Gail Earnest -Treasurer

Mike Blanco is stepping down from Tour Guide Coordinator and will be replaced by Alice Keener.

Treasurer - Gail Earnest. The balance in the treasury remains at \$2,356.15.

Approval of Minutes - Linda Cooper, Secretary. Minutes of the August 5th meeting were approved as distributed.

Volunteer of the Month - John Griffiths introduced by Liz Tesolin. John is originally from Staffordshire, England. He later moved to Australia and worked as an agricultural scientist. In his career as an agricultural consultant he has traveled to China, Kosovo, and Vietnam. He now lives in Encinitas with his partner Dan. John is enjoying working with a special team of Docents, Volunteers and staff. He is especially interested in preserving and extending the plant collection at the Garden.

Coordinator Reports - Jeff Clingan, Vice Chair.

Docent in Training Update. Jeff has been working with DIT instructors for the training program, which will resume via Zoom classes in September. They hope to finish in October. If the tour portion of the Garden classes cannot be done in person, they may use Garden videos to complete the requirements.

Milestones - Sue Ruddick and Fran Spath. Sue recognized three 90-hour milestones and one 200-hour milestone. Sue reminded Docents and Volunteers to continue reporting hours on the Website. Additionally, only Active Docents will be eligible to vote in October on the Subcommittee Recommendations. Many Docent memberships have lapsed, so please check your status. If there are any questions call Sue Ruddick. Fran Spath recognized one 90-hour milestone.

Botanic Book Buddies - Barb Farley. This month Book Buddies will discuss Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Ph.D. The book for October will be The King of California by Mark Arax and Rick Wartzman.

Docents at Large - Liz Tesolin. Everything seems to be going well. Please join the Facebook group and post anything garden-related.

Old Business - Susan Starr, Chair.

Discussion of revised Subcommittee Recommendations - Susan Starr.

There were six recommendations that DEB reviewed from the Subcommittee. Three of these, which require changes to the Operating Regulations, will be voted on by Active Docents at the October D & V Meeting.

Recommendation #1. Change the name of the SDBG Docent Society to the SDBG Docent and Volunteer Society.

Recommendation #2. All Volunteers who are Garden members and worked 80 hours or more in the previous calendar year may vote.

Recommendation #3. All Volunteers who are active members of the Garden and worked 80 hours or more in the previous calendar year may hold office.

Susan thanked everyone who submitted comments regarding these changes. DEB tried to accommodate the issue of parity in regard to voting and holding office, and to also recognize Docents in the name of the Society for the significant contributions they make to the Garden.

The remaining three Subcommittee recommendations are of an advisory nature and will be addressed by DEB at a later time.

Voting will take place at the October 7th D&V General Meeting. Voting will be via a Zoom poll by Active Docents only. The vote will be anonymous. Those unable to vote on Zoom will be offered another option.

Program: Gary Roberson, introduced by Kathryn Blankinship. Gary is the Lead Project Manager, Cycad and Palm Collections, at The Huntington.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:25 am.

Linda Cooper, Secretary