

FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
December 11, 2019
-DRAFT-

*Approved
3/11/2020*

The 196th meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion Classroom at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Greg Saks, Tony Florentine, RJ Stager, and Marie Johnson

Others Present: Gregory Dymont, Director
Gregory Pongetti, Living Collections Curator
Fran Colwell, Friends President
Marta McDaniel, Recorder
Miguel Macias, Education Manager
Kathie Kingett, Friends Past President
Christopher Swarat, A.V.P., EIP
Harriet Bouldin, Development & Volunteer Manager
Gaelle Gralneck, University & Arboretum Authority Counsel

Commissioner Saks called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action Item: Approve Minutes from September 11, 2019 – Saks

Commissioner Saks asked for approval of the September 11, 2019 minutes.

MSC – Minutes accepted and approved unanimously.

2. Action Item: Sign New Conflict of Interest Forms for 2020 – Saks

Commissioner Saks asked that all commissioners sign forms.
(Exhibit A)

3. Action Item: Approve Destination Science non-exclusive license to use Fullerton Arboretum Facilities for summer of 2020 - Dymment

Dymment said Destination Science will once again run their science camp for 6 weeks next summer and would like the commission to approve contract for summer of 2020.

(Exhibit B)

MSC – Destination Science non-exclusive license to use Fullerton Arboretum Facilities for summer of 2020 was accepted and approved unanimously.

4. Action Item: Approve conversion of the Fullerton Arboretum's Quasi-Endowment Fund at CSUF Philanthropic Foundation to a Permanent Endowment Fund – Dymment

Dymment said the money transferred by the Joint Investment Committee to the Foundation went into the Arboretum's Quasi-Endowment fund. Quasi-Endowment funds allow the beneficiary to use the corpus/principle of the fund. Dymment said in order to comply with the wishes of the donors of these funds it should be converted to a full endowment fund, to protect the principle and support the Arboretum in perpetuity.

Discussion followed regarding the policies protecting the principle of the fund in case of catastrophic market correction or borrowing against the principle. Saks said the Foundation had policies in place forbidding the borrowing against the principle and policies to protect against market corrections. The Foundation holds two years of distribution amount payouts to help protect against market corrections.

Discussion followed regarding losing the flexibility of using corpus/principle money for Arboretum operating expense. Dymment said that public gardens who were allowed to use the principle of their endowments back in 07-08 struggled the most to recover. If the Arboretum should need a large capital investment for a project, it would reach out to its donors for funding.

(Exhibit C)

MSC – Conversion of the Fullerton Arboretum's Quasi-Endowment Fund at CSUF Philanthropic Foundation to a Permanent Endowment Fund was accepted and approved unanimously.

5. Director's Report – Dymont

Dymont said the Arboretum met with OC Parks staff to discuss mutual benefits and County funding. OC Parks manages a lot of wild spaces and is in need of seed and plant material for re-vegetation in areas that have been burned out. There was also discussion regarding the use of Round-Up for weed control. Pongetti will follow up regarding native plant growing and propagation. Seed collection is also important for OC Parks. This may be an area where we can work together as seed collection would be a benefit to both parties.

Dymont said as of today the Quasi-Endowment fund hold \$3,156,070.39. Dymont reminded the Commissioners that elections of officers will be held in March.

6. Grounds' Report – Pongetti

Pongetti said the Arboretum had participated in several Oak studies. Oaks are a valuable keystone species that are found in a wide range of habitats around the world. There are approximately 450 species of oak and at least 20% are considered threatened. North America has 91 native oaks, 28 considered threatened. Acorns cannot be seed banked making living collections a critical tool for their conservation.

In April the Arboretum participated in the Mediterranean oak pathology survey. The project was funded by the International Plant Sentinel Network (IPSN), BGCI, UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and lead by Tim Thibault, curator of woody plant collection at HBG. The project surveyed for three different pests (GSOB, TLCB, PSHB) on two Mediterranean oak trees at the arboretum (cork oak and holly oak) to determine how these trees may be affected by these pests in their native habitat (Mediterranean Europe) if these pests were introduced there. Three of our holly oak and 13 cork oaks were surveyed and found to be infested with PSHB, as expected. No other pests were found.

In July, the Arboretum participated in the Oak genetic conservation study Queras pacific. The project was funded by the Morton Arboretum and BGCI. The purpose was to calculate what percent of wild in situ genetic diversity has been preserved by the collective efforts of botanic gardens. This helps to answer the questions: "how much genetic diversity is preserved in botanic gardens" and "how could we best sample to conserve genetic diversity (e.g.on future

collections).” Leaf samples from our island scrub oak (*Quercus pacifica*) in our Channel Islands Garden collection were shipped in for genetic analysis to determine the extent of genetic diversity present in ex situ collections in botanic gardens. Our island scrub oak was given to us by the Catalina Island Conservancy and is presumably of wild origin (very important for this type of conservation work); wild collected specimens have greater conservation value.

Pongetti said the Arboretum has been invited to be a part of the new Global Conservation Consortium for Oak – Metacollection. It is a network of coordinated living plant collections at multiple sites around the world. They aim to develop comprehensive conservation strategy for oaks in situ and ex situ. The Arboretum would participate as a safe site.

7. Friends Report – Colwell

Colwell said since the last Commission meeting on September 11, the Friends have helped host:

The annual California Native Plant sale on November 2-3. About 2,300 plants were sold.

The Cactus and Succulent Sale was December 7-8.

In addition, a CSUF theatrical department Halloween event was performed in mid-October and our Holiday Luminaria Stroll is scheduled for December 13-14

A check for about \$1,400,000 was presented from the Friends to CSUF Philanthropic Foundation in a ceremony on October 22 on behalf of the Bacon family gift as per the Commission’s decision at their September meeting. CSUF President Fram Virgee gratefully accepted the check, which went into the Arboretum’s endowment fund.

The Museum re-opened on October 13 with a reception to kick-off the Fullerton Arboretum 40th Anniversary exhibit as curated by CSUF students and faculty. A mixer with Arboretum staff, Friends board members, CSUF provost, faculty and students was held on October 24 at the Museum. We heard about research, class projects, capstone projects and internships.

An anniversary celebration, with Golden Oak Award presentation, is being planned as part of the Gala in the Garden on June 20, 2020.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Saks adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.
The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, March 11, 2020.

Lucinda Williams, Fullerton City Clerk and
Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission

By Marta McDaniel
Marta McDaniel, Administrative Analyst and
Recording Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission
Exhibit A: Conflict of Interest form
Exhibit B: Destination Science contract
Exhibit C: Addendum to convert Quasi-Endowment Fund to Endowment Fund