

FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING June 22, 2011

The 167th meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion classrooms at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Eugene Jones, Kay Miller, Tony Florentine, Pat Carroll and Jane Hall

Others present: Gregory Dymont, Director
Monique Shay, University Counsel
Chris Barnhill, Living Collections Curator
Mary Dalessi, Friends President
Ami Becker, Education
Anne Thiele, Recorder

Jones called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Approve minutes of March 23, 2011 – Jones*

Minutes submitted and approved.

2. *Review 2010 - 2011 Financial Worksheets – Miller*

2010 – 2011 Financial Worksheets reviewed. (Exhibit A)

3. *Review 2011 - 2012 Draft Budget – Miller*

2011 – 2012 Draft Budget reviewed. (Exhibit B)

4. *Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum proposal to increase revenue.*

Dyment introduced Friends Volunteer Coordinator, Harriet Bouldin, who spoke about initiating an entrance fee for the Fullerton Arboretum. Bouldin said she researched many botanical gardens and the Arboretum is the only garden in the area that doesn't charge a fee. Bouldin said if we institute a fee and allow faculty, students and members in free, research shows membership increases 30% in the first year and 35% in the second year. Currently, 70% of the Arboretum memberships are for individuals and an entrance fee would increase both individual and family memberships. Bouldin said an article in the American Public Garden stated most gardens are moving to paid admission at fees around \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

Miller said an entrance fee would control access and help prevent theft and this could be an opportunity since it's possible we could lose funding from the City of Fullerton. Florentine said he moved to have the Commission support a study and implementation of an admission fee to the Fullerton Arboretum. Jones said we couldn't make it an action item yet but could set up a study and design. Carroll said there are pros and cons to instituting a fee and suggested more discussion on the subject and different alternatives, such as, implementing a \$500 bus fee and using cameras to prevent thefts.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Director's Report – Dyment

Dyment said the annual fund raiser, Midsummer Night in the Garden, will be held on Saturday, July 16th.

Dyment spoke about the OCNAH Museum opening held on April 27th which had over 250 attendees. The opening included Center of Oral and Public History students performing and speakers involved with the Civil Rights Movement. To date, over 1000 visitors have seen this new exhibit. Dyment also said that teachers in the community are planning lessons around this museum exhibit.

Dyment said the Orange County Register reported that the Fullerton Arboretum did not report the Salary and Compensation Report to the State on time. Dyment said this was a new State report that had not been received but the CSUF Business Office contacted the State, completed and filed the report.

Dyment said during the weekend of Green Scene, April 16 & 17, an extremely hot weekend, a woman fell and is now seeking restitution from the Arboretum. The Arboretum's insurance company is handling the case.

Dyment said Cal State Fullerton employees, Bond and Apel spoke to him regarding the addition of a sidewalk, proposed to run from the dorms around Campus Drive to the entrance of the Arboretum. This project would need approximately 8' to 10' of Arboretum space, would include lighting and fencing to match the newly installed fence at the front of the Arboretum.

Dyment said Education Manager, Ami Becker would soon be moving back to Arizona. Her last day is Friday, August 12th. The Commissioners thanked Becker for all her work.

6. Grounds Report – Barnhill

Barnhill thanked Florentine and the Fullerton South Rotary for their assistance with the new fencing, which is now in place, running from the front parking lot to the maintenance yard.

Barnhill said outside the newly renovated bathrooms, he and his staff built a dry sack wall with plants interweaved throughout the stone.

Barnhill reported he has acquired 11 news volunteers to assist on the grounds.

7. Education Report – Becker

Becker spoke about the progress of various Education Programs:

CEEP: 40 classrooms of 3rd graders were part of the program sponsored by Fullerton South Rotary. Tours are finished and applications for next year are in. 6 spots have been added to accommodate teachers from Buena Park and Centralia School Districts.

California Indian Plant Uses Program: In collaboration with Dr. Brenda Bowser, Archaeology Department, Archaeology Day was held on May 1st. Dr. Bowser's students taught the community how archaeology can help us learn about our human race's dependence on the earth and about the cultures of Native Americans in Southern California. The class was full to overflowing with a waiting list. A Native American Cultures Day is planned for next year.

On May 4th the OCNAH Museum held its first community event in support of New Birth of Freedom Exhibition: Orange County's Fair Housing Heroes in the Civil Rights Era. The next event, The Golden State and The Civil War, presented by Civil War and President Abraham Lincoln specialist Dr. Ronald D. Rietveld, Professor of History Emeritus at California State University, Fullerton, and a member of the History Advisory and Content Team for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, argues that California, notwithstanding having no direct involvement in the Civil War, greatly aided the Union's defeat of the Confederacy.

Summer Camp: Two sessions: first session, now in progress, has 17 children and the second session is almost filled.
Camp theme is Gifts from the Earth: Discovering Nature's Bounty.
Children at camp will be learning about bricks from the desert, food from the farm, honey from bees, and much more.

Next season begins our Water Conservation Gardening classes, Eat the Yard, Composting, Photography Classes, and Yoga in the Garden.

8. Friends Report – Dalessi

Dalessi said personnel-wise, it's been a challenging year for the Friends. The Friends have not staffed an Administrative Assistant since December, 2010. Dalessi said the Friends Manager, Mark Costello has been on medical leave since just after Green Scene in April, 2011. Staff member, Phil Radke has been given the Public Relations duties in Costello's absence.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Miller said the City of Fullerton has reappointed her, extending her term as Commissioner until 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.
The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Beverly White
Fullerton City Clerk and
Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission

By Anne Thiele

Anne Thiele, Administrative Analyst and
Recording Secretary for the Fullerton Arboretum Commission

2010 - 2011 Financial Worksheets (Exhibit A)

Fullerton Arboretum 2011-2012 Draft Budget (Exhibit B)