

FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING March 23, 2011

The 166th meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion classrooms at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Eugene Jones, Pat Carroll, Kay Miller, Jane Hall, Tony Florentine, Joe Felz and Steve Murray

Others present: Gregory Dymont (Director)
President Gordon
Frances Kuo (Auditor)
Anne Thiele (Recorder)
Monique Shay (University Counsel)
Chris Barnhill (Living Collections Curator)
Mary Dalessi (Friends President)
Ami Becker (Education)
Laura Hultman (Finance Office)

Jones called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Jones introduced President Gordon. President Gordon thanked Jones stating how instrumental Jones was in starting the Arboretum along with his wife Terry, who formed the Friends of the Arboretum. President Gordon spoke about the dedication and efforts of the University, CSU Board of Trustees, students, faculty and the City of Fullerton to establish the Fullerton Arboretum Authority. President Gordon said with hard work and dedication from faculty, a \$10,000 award from Associated Students, and the cooperation of the University and City of Fullerton, the Arboretum opened in 1979 and is now the largest botanical garden in Orange County with over 4000 unique plants and species from around the world.

President Gordon also spoke about the success of events held at the Arboretum, such as Green Scene, Midsummer Night in the Garden, Victorian Christmas, Haunted Garden, Monster Tomato Sale and the numerous classes which are enjoyed by visitors from the surrounding communities.

President Gordon said the Arboretum strengthens the connection between CSUF and the community and enhances the University's educational mission.

Jones thanked President Gordon for attending the Commission Meeting. President Gordon thanked the Commissioners and the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum for their hard work and dedication. President Gordon thanked Director Dymment for his leadership, support and institution of programs.

1. Director's Report – Dymment

Dymment said the Arboretum is using the Arboretum Farm Project as a model for a grant applied for with Cal State Fullerton's Anthropology Department through the USDA's Urban Agriculture Community based Research Experience (U-ACRE). If successful, the Arboretum will provide the community at a targeted school, Ladera Vista Junior High School, the much needed support and expertise in urban agriculture. This will give the students and staff the knowledge and skills to be able to grow fruit and vegetables on their campus to be used in their school kitchen for their lunches. Dr. Sara Johnson from Anthropology and her students will teach and conduct research on food security and childhood and school nutrition issues. The goal of this project is to develop a public school model that can be replicated elsewhere which integrates urban agriculture, culinary skills and sustainable practices. This project gives us the opportunity to demonstrate what we have learned with our Farm project and lets the Ladera Vista students see what can be done on their campus.

Dymment said a graduate student in CSUF's Public Health program is holding Cal State Fullerton's first Farmer's Market on April 6th as part of her Master's Project. The Arboretum will drive its Farm Stand to the Quad and participate in providing fresh organically grown fruit and vegetables to the students, faculty and staff who stops by. Cal Poly Pomona will be bringing their Farm Stand as well as other local farmers in the area. The Arboretum Farm Stand will also be featured during Earth Week when the CSUF Center for Sustainability and SCUF Environmental Studies Student Association (ESSA) host a Local, Organic and Sustainability Food Expo in the Quad on April 20th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Dymment spoke about working with Dr. John Carroll and the Geography Department to locate a weather monitoring station here at the Arboretum that would tie in with other Geography weather monitoring sites located here on campus and off site locations. The goal is to measure the subtle differences in weather in the Orange County region. There is currently one weather station functioning and that is on top of the Humanities building.

Dymment said the renovation of the Nature Center restrooms is now complete.

Dymment spoke about the upcoming Orange County Nikkei Agricultural and Heritage Museum exhibit: "New Birth of Freedom, Civil War to Civil Rights in

California” and introduced Co-Curators’ and grad students, Michelle Antenesse and Bethany Girod. Both Antenesse and Girod are graduate students in the Center for Oral and Public History (COPH). The Project director for this exhibition is Professor Dr. Benjamin Cawthra, who joined Cal State Fullerton’s History Department in 2007. Before coming to Cal State Fullerton, Dr. Cawthra was a public historian at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis. Grad students Antenesse and Girod spoke about their research on the Civil War and the connection to California and the various contributions to the war by California. Both Antenesse and Girod said the experience of ‘hands on’ work from start to finish for this upcoming exhibit has been extremely rewarding. Cawthra said this exhibit represents the best of what students can accomplish and thanked the Arboretum, Friends of the Arboretum, Associated Students and the President’s Mission and Goals for support. Jones thanked Cawthra and the students for their involvement and hard work. Dyment noted the museum opening is Wednesday, April 27th.

2. Friends Report – Dalessi

Dalessi said the Friends completed a successful Monster Pepper & Tomato sale with \$100,000 gross for the four day sale. Dalessi thanked Nursery Manager, Evie Tyra who supervised the potting and growing of the tomatoes and peppers. Dalessi also thanked the volunteers who worked the sale. There were 22 volunteers per shift and 7 shifts a day for the 4 day sale.

Dalessi said the Friends biggest contribution to the Arboretum is volunteers. As noted in the 2009 audit, volunteers worked 22,747 hours and the audit ending 2010, volunteer hours were 21,531 with a dollar value of \$448,921. There are 300 plus regular volunteers working year round in a variety of jobs at the Arboretum. Volunteer groups include: Environmental Club, Sonora High School Beta Alpha Psi from CSAU campus, Guardian Scholars, Boy Scouts, UC Master Gardeners and Hart Community Homes.

Dalessi spoke about some of the ways the Friends support the garden financially including a yearly commitment of \$52,000 and an extra \$40,000 this year for restroom renovation. Year end appeals such as, Children’s Garden, Mojave Desert project and Chaparral, which covered cost of approximately \$85,000 last year for plants, seeds, tree trimming, part time student gardener and full time Advanced Gardener, Greg Pongetti.

Dalessi said the Friends also have 2 scholarships given out each year:
Walkington for Sciences
Maag for History

Dalessi said the Friends also have assistants from campus connections:

Campus volunteer center
Center for Oral and Public History
Daily Titan – advertising and reporting events
Campus Public Affairs Office
UEE

Dalessi acknowledged Harriet Bouldin, Friends Volunteer Coordinator, and thanked her for her assistance with the docents and volunteers.

Dalessi reminded everyone that Green Scene is the weekend of April 16th and 17th.

Jones acknowledged the growth of the Friends since it began in February 1972 and thanked Dalessi for the good works of the Friends organization.

3. Education Report – Becker

Becker reported on the progress of the Arboretum Education Programs:

Eat The Yard! Class - 1 class was full to overflowing with 60+ attendees (original limit was 20/session).

Rainbow Garden Tours – held for 2 weeks this March for Pre-K – 1st Grade and includes 3 tours a day.

CEEP – 40 classrooms of 3rd graders are part of the program sponsored by Fullerton South Rotary, 2/3 have come on their field study trips, 5 Districts participate, most classes are from Fullerton School District, tours run through May.

California Indian Plant Uses Program, in collaboration with Dr. Brenda Bowser in Archaeology - Archaeology Day on May 1st, Dr. Bowser's students will teach 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.

Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum –
New Birth of Freedom: Civil War to Civil Rights in CA
Dr. Hansen, former director of Center for Oral and Public History putting together 3 public events with the Arboretum – our first time hosting such events connected to the museum. On May 4th, Bob Johnson, author of A Different Shade of Orange moderates a panel and in September and October the students are developing educational outreach including online, oral history workshops, and a LIFE game in the Museum.

Arts in the Garden on May 15th - Dr. Arnold, Dean of College of the Arts and Dr. Dennis Siebenaler in Music Education are gathering students to work with the Arboretum on putting on this year's Arts in the Garden.

Jones thanked Becker for all the work she's done with the Education Program, integrating the Education Mission with not only the University but the surrounding communities.

4. Grounds Report – Barnhill

Barnhill said he had 4 students accompany him to the Associated Students meeting to present the quarterly report and had the students talk about working on the grounds, helping with planting, weeding, garden development etc.

Barnhill said they are progressing on the California meadow project with 15 species of base grasses and over 800 plants in production, with many more species of forbs also in production. Barnhill said this garden will help support many of the University classes from plant ecology, plant physiology and biology 171 and 274. Today Dr. Schenk and plant ecology class are in the California native garden doing water conductivity studies on our plants.

Barnhill said that within the next couple of weeks the grounds crew will be planting close to 100 new species of plants into our woodland garden. This is part of a yearlong project to renovate and improve the plant collections in this part of the Arboretum.

Barnhill said with the support of Dr. Johnson from Anthropology, they are preparing and planting the farm for summer. The next farm stand will be on campus April 6th.

Barnhill said Greg Pongetti and himself will be working in cooperation with Dr. Sandquist in Biology on examining the flora on three dated lava flows in the Mojave Desert. They will both help identify the species growing on the flows and help look for hints at what drives species diversity in this region.

Jones thanked Barnhill and Pongetti for improving the Arboretum grounds and working with the University faculty so the Arboretum will exist in perpetuity.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Approve minutes of December 15, 2010 – Jones*

Minutes submitted and approved.

2. *Review Financial Worksheets – Miller*

Finances on target with revenue at 76% and expenses at 72%. (Exhibit A)

3. *Review 2009 – 2010 Draft Audit – Dymont*

Frances Kuo, Senior Auditor from Caporicci & Larson, Inc., a subsidiary of Marcum LLP Certified Public Accountants, said the Fullerton Arboretum Authority's financial statements are the responsibility of the Authority's management and her firm's responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on their audits as of and for the year ending June 30, 2010. Kuo said they conducted the audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and their report dated March 22, 2010 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements. Kuo stated "In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial positions of the Authority as of June 30, 2010 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Jones thanked Kuo for her input. (Exhibit B)

Action Item: Proposal to change Commission Meeting start time – Jones

MSC – Florentine motioned to keep the Commission Meetings at the same starting time of 3 pm. Seconded by Carroll and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Jones adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

Beverley 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)

2009-2010 Arboretum Draft Audit (Exhibit B)