

FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 8, 2017

~~-DRAFT-~~

*approved
6/14/17*

The 186th meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion Classroom at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Kristin Prior, Tony Florentine, Frank Mumford, RJ Stager, Greg Saks, Doug Chaffee, Anil Puri

Others Present: Gregory Dyment, Director
Gregory Pongetti, Living Collections Curator
Marta McDaniel, Recorder
Miguel Macias, Education Manager
Steve Eldredge, Friends President
Mary Dalessi, Friends Executive Committee

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action Item: Approve Minutes of December 14, 2016 - Mumford

Commissioner Mumford asked for approval of the December 14, 2016 minutes.

MSC – Minutes accepted and approved unanimously.

2. Election of Commission Officers - Mumford

Commissioner Mumford asked for nominations for position of President. Commissioner Saks nominated Commissioner Mumford to continue in role of President.

MSC – Nomination accepted and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Mumford asked for nominations for position of Vice President. Commissioner Puri nominated Commissioner Saks for position of Vice President.

MSC – Nomination accepted and approved unanimously.

3. Action Item: Approve Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 - McDaniel

Draft Budget reviewed page by page.
(Exhibit A)

**MSC – Chaffee motioned to approve budget
Seconded by Puri and carried.**

Dyment commented that losing \$200,000 in funding from the City would significantly change the landscape of how the arboretum would function. Dyment hopes the JPA will be extended.

4. Review Financial Worksheets ending January 31, 2017 - McDaniel

Financial worksheets reviewed page by page.
(Exhibit B)

5. Action Item: Approve Arb-Net Arboretum Accreditation Application – Dyment

Dyment said the accreditation program is sponsored and supported by the Morton Arboretum, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA). Through a period of self-assessment, starting with the application for recognition of our Citrus Collection, the arboretum has been able to complete the accreditation application for level IV rating. Level IV being the highest rating given.

Dyment said that out of the 35 public gardens in California, only two other gardens had been recognized (Los Angeles County Arboretum and UC Davis Arboretum) at level IV. San Marcos Botanic Garden and Davis Cemetery recognized at level II and Madrona Garden in Saratoga at level I.

The main distinction for level IV rating and level III was having researchers on the payroll. Our arboretum has plenty of research done on the grounds through our academic departments.

Macias mentioned on-going research projects in the biological sciences, geography sciences, geological sciences and visual arts.
(Exhibit C)

**MSC – Florentine motioned to approve the Arb-Net Application
Seconded by Saks and carried.**

Chaffee said what a fantastic opportunity and a great job putting the application together.

Discussion followed regarding the process and merits of receiving accreditation.

Dyment said the arboretum should receive an answer to application in 4 weeks. There is no cost for applying.

6. Review: GIS Plant Location and Data Progress – Dyment, Pongetti

Dyment said this journey started with a guest looking for a specific type of bamboo. After much searching of the grounds and mounting frustration, the guest came to the office and suggested that the arboretum use the GIS system to catalog the plants and trees in the garden. The system would allow each plant/tree to be located with a specific set of satellite coordinates and allow inclusion of photos and descriptions of the plant/tree.

Dyment said Dr. John Carroll got involved and became the project manager. He took all of the arboretum maps and created the data maps needed to start the GIS project. Interns have added the satellite coordinates of plants/trees, with a special iPad and GIS tool, and took photos for catalog.

Pongetti said there are over 7000 points on the map that need to be verified by him and horticulture staff with botanical knowledge of plants.

Dyment said this is the creation of the base map but the sky is the limit. The Botanical Gardens in Singapore have the GIS system in place and created guided tours of the garden appropriate for all interests and ages.

Dyment said the GIS system would eventually be available through our website or an app.

Saks said when the app or website is ready to launch it could also be added to the TitanAlumni apps for easy access to all Titan alumni or friends.

Dyment said GIS system and accreditation all work hand in hand to bring prestige and recognition to the garden's plant collections and allow exchanging of rare seeds and plants.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Director's Report – Dyment

Dyment said Mysun funded Distance Education Program. Mysun also funded the CEEP and JHEEP program. The interest in the distance education program came about with their funding of social programs for the schools in Ferguson, MO. We found a volunteer with experience in distance education programs. She has created a module using much of the curriculum created for CEEP and JHEEP. It contains a pretest, videos and a post-test. The module demonstrated last week and was a success.

Dyment said Phelps funded the QR code project. The ground signage contains QR codes meant to allow access to more information about each section of the garden. We found an intern who has done a phenomenal job creating the videos for each section. He has been working with Pongetti to create a video for each sign and section of the garden. The videos can be available through public broadcasting.

Dyment said Mysun funded a Tourism project. The arboretum is collaborating with the Tourism department at the university. The Department puts on the Newport Film Festival. They were looking for another project closer to campus. They will be creating a program that will allow the arboretum to have the front gate staffed by students during business hours. The graduate student developing the program also worked for Disneyland at the front gate and has a clear idea of what needs to be included in the program. The interns will greet guests at the gate. The tourism interns would sit in a mobile kiosk at the front gate.

8. Grounds Report – Pongetti

Pongetti said Veggiepalooza plants are almost ready for sale. Seeds planted before Christmas and will be ready by sale time.

Pongetti said Heritage House bed borders replaced, more plants added and weeds removed.

Pongetti said Orange County Conservation Corps is repairing trails and pathways. The project funded by Mysun. Process involves grading the surface, adding decomposed granite and then pressure rolling with a vibrating roller. Paths will continue to need maintenance about once a year after the rains.

9. Friends Report – Eldredge

Eldredge said Holiday Luminaria stroll was a very successful event. Hundreds attended. Had good volunteer support. Planning to do it again next year.

Greenleaves published and the spring/summer 2017 edition is out.

Valentine's Day stroll held for second year and did great.

Veggiepalooza is March 18th and 19th with a members' only sale on the 17th. We have an active volunteer committee and are well prepared. Plants look terrific.

Green Scene is April 22nd and 23rd. Challenges with retaining vendors and attracting new vendors, however, we have 16 new vendors this year.

Victorian Tea is May 7th each table is uniquely decorated and sells out every year.
Proceeds allocated for maintaining the house.

Gala is June 17th, save the date cards sent and invitations almost ready.

Blues & Brews will be in August.

Eldredge said finances this year are doing Ok and start with our big event this spring.
We begin budget prep next month, but unfortunately, commitment to the Arboretum
reduced by \$5000 next year.

Eldredge said challenges are increasing, need new members for Chaparral Society and
board development.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chaffee said there is great concern over the death of the JPA and would like to start a
conversation with the university to continue support for the Arboretum.

Mumford said he heard the President state that there would always be an Arboretum.

Saks said CSUF's Physical Master Plan was starting soon and welcomed a conversation for
strategies to help campus see what was going on and how to continue integration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mumford adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, June 14, 2017

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: Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018
Exhibit B: Financial Worksheets ending January 31, 2017
Exhibit C: Arb-Net Arboretum Accreditation Application Form