

**FULLERTON ARBORETUM COMMISSION**

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 14, 2018  
-DRAFT-

*Approved  
6/13/18*

The 190<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Fullerton Arboretum Commission was held in the Pavilion Classroom at the Fullerton Arboretum.

Commissioners present: Greg Saks, RJ Stager, Kristin Prior, Tony Florentine, Amir Dabirian and Kari Knutson-Miller

Others Present: Gregory Dymont, Director  
Gregory Pongetti, Living Collections Curator  
Marta McDaniel, Recorder  
Miguel Macias, Education Manager  
Kathie Kingett, Friends President  
Steve Eldredge, Past Friends President  
Tami Bui, A.V.P., Government & Community Relations

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Action Item: Election of Commission Officers – Vice President Saks**

Dymont explained per the JPA, elections for President and Vice President occur at the first meeting of the new year.

Vice President Saks asked for nominations for President.

**MSC – Dabirian motioned to elect Saks as new President  
Seconded by Prior and carried.**

President Saks asked for nominations for Vice President.

**MSC – Knutson-Miller motioned to elect Dabirian as new Vice President  
Seconded by Florentine and carried.**

**2. Action Item: Approve Minutes of December 13, 2017 - Saks**

President Saks asked for approval of the December 13, 2017 minutes.

**MSC – Minutes accepted and approved unanimously.**

**3. Action Item: Approve Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 - McDaniel**

Dyment explained the annual budget is presented at the first meeting of the year, per JPA.

Budget presented page by page.  
(Exhibit A)

**MSC – Budget accepted and approved unanimously.**

**4. Review: 2017-2018 Financial Worksheets - McDaniel**

Financial worksheets reviewed page by page.  
(Exhibit B)

**OLD BUSINESS**

**5. Director's Report – Dyment**

Dyment said the end of March starts the rental season and it lasts through the end of October.

Dyment asked Steve Eldredge to present the 2020 Fund report.  
(Exhibit C)

Eldredge said Wells Fargo manages the account. The account did better this year than last. Expect to make some changes under Wells Fargo advice.

Discussion followed about clarification on who owns the 2020 Fund. It is owned by the Fullerton Arboretum Authority and managed by the Joint Investment Committee and held by the Friends of Fullerton Arboretum.

Discussion followed about who managed the Quasi-Endowment Fund at CSUF Philanthropic and what was its performance. It is managed by Goldman-Sachs and performs at 11-12%.

Discussion followed about what it means to be a Quasi-Endowment fund. Quasi-Endowments funds allow the owner to spend the corpus of the fund.

Dyment said the museum is hosting "Natural Wonders" a juried photography show curated by our volunteer, Barbara Thompson. The show will end March 24.

Dyment said the next museum exhibit will be watercolors by Professor Lawrence Yun's students "Botanical Delights of the Arboretum."

Dyment said "Steward of Place" will be held on April 24, 2018. Kari Knutson-Miller helped start this event. The event features presentations of faculty and student research projects.

Dyment asked Pongetti to present some important factors in the accreditation process.

## **6. Grounds Report – Pongetti**

Pongetti said one of the most important factors that contributed to our Level IV Accreditation became apparent during Dr. Murphy Westwood's visit to our nursery operation. Our nursery primarily grows plants for our collection and plant sales as well as distribution and trade with other gardens. The Horticulture staff and volunteers provide the labor. They propagate rare and threatened plants and make them available to the public and other gardens. For example, the Golden Barrel Cactus from Mexico has made a comeback because of these measures.

Pongetti said we have collaborated with other gardens, for example, with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's Nuttall's Scrub Oak Project. This project involved the collection of wild Scrub Oak acorns and then distribution of the acorns for propagation.

Pongetti said we have also shared our collections with San Diego Botanic Garden, Huntington Library, Wrigley Botanic Garden, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Lotusland. Our collections are also available worldwide through our membership with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

Pongetti said for the last 3 months the horticulture staff has been busy growing plants for Veggiepalooza. We have about 300 varieties of vegetables. Many plant lovers start out growing fruits and vegetables and other useful plants.

## 7. Friends Report – Kingett

Kingett said we are coming off our quiet season in the arboretum. We had a Walk and Talk for Commission members on February 21<sup>st</sup>, and thank you to those who attended for a look at the “back country” of the arboretum.

Valentine Stroll was held February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers: we had a new volunteer orientation on January 27<sup>th</sup> and have a new group of volunteers. We held our annual Volunteer Pot Luck and Recognition luncheon on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We had our first “Super Saturday” on February 24<sup>th</sup> for volunteers that want to help but work during the week. This has been a long standing request from volunteers and we thank Pongetti and the horticulture staff for accommodating us.

Finances: finances are looking good. Investments are up and both Development and Membership are above budget predictions at this time.

Upcoming events: Veggiepalooza is this weekend, March 17 & 18, Green Scene will follow on April 21 & 22. Steward of Place on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Maag and Walkington Scholarships will be awarded at the Steward of Place event. The museum will host “Botanical Delights of the Arboretum” April 14 through May 13<sup>th</sup>. Victorian Tea will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Summer Solstice will replace the Gala on June 16<sup>th</sup>. We hope to add motorcycles to our Brews and Blues on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## OTHER BUSINESS

## ADJOURNMENT

Saks adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

The next Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2018

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 2018-2019  
Exhibit B: Financial Worksheets ending January 2018  
Exhibit C: 2020 Fund