**MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF THE EDWIN AND FRANCES HUNTER ARBORETUM AT PALOMAR COLLEGE**

**MAY 1, 2024**

**VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**In attendance:**

Antonio Rangel, President Susan Wyche

May Fong Ho Dennis Astl

Beth Pearson Pauline Riley

Wayne Armstrong Christina (Cricket) Fuller

Stephen Fuller Kurt Parmenter

The meeting was called to order at 5:37. Everyone introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve.

**Arboretum website**- Beth Pearson: Christine (Cricket) Fuller updated the Board members. Beth and Cricket have been updating the website

**President’s Report – Tony Rangel**

Tony reported that there has been work done on becoming ADA compliant.

He also reported that he is working with Information Services (IS) to get the Wayne’s Word website back on the College server. IS suggested making a bid package to have issues resolved, and Tony wants to get this prioritized.

Vision Plan: The long-term Vision Plan is done. Tony met with Todd McDonald, VP Finance & Administrative Services and Superintendent/President Star Rivera-Lacey. He will send out the Vision Plan tomorrow to the Arboretum Board with edits tomorrow. The Plan has many aspects: finishing the trails, the Visitor Center, signage and a staffing plan (for the entire District.) It will not go through Shared Governance until August.

Hibiscus Virus Testing: The results of testing were negative but there might still be something else that was not detected by the testing. Still, the results are encouraging. The State Agriculture Department gave him contacts for other labs for testing. Tony will take two of the hibiscus, put them in 5-gallon pots and keep the in the office to monitor them. They may grow out of it. If they continue to show symptoms, he will send them to State labs for further testing. Susan Wyche sent Tony an article on new viruses in Hawaii. The author is John Ho. Tony reached out to him but has had no response yet. He will try again.

Wayne Armstrong asked if Tony would like some seeds of a malva. He said the plant was misnamed but he has contacted Cambridge and they will re-name it. It has naturalized in San Marcos valley. It also grows in Palestine, Syria, and Gaza. It is edible and the Palestinians are eating it. Tony would like some seeds for the Seed Bank.

The student intern is still submitting reports on insect behavior. The research grant will continue for another 3-4 years. And the student intern, Grant, will be here another year. Tony noted that when the San Diego Zoo personnel were here last month, they said that the Cotton Seed Bug has been at the Zoo for at least ten years.

Signage: Tony was in a brief meeting a couple weeks ago for Athletic Complex signage. Beth is still in the process of mobilizing students and will meet again shortly. Tony and Dennis will contact All-Star Signs regarding signage. There was a discussion regarding the types of plants that should be used in the Athletic Complex. They should be natives and have ethno-botanical value. They should be drought tolerant and non-invasive. Interpretive signage would discuss these aspects. Students will research for the information on the signs. These signs will also serve as a template for the signs in the rest of the District sites. The goal is to have a manageable number of QR codes linked to a manageable number of websites to make updating easier. There could be a budget to hire someone to periodically check that. Susan suggested that the QR code should be separate from the botanical label on a separate stake. QR codes should be more temporary. She also suggested that it would be wise to bring in a consultant to advise us on any number of Arboretum issues. She knows someone who retired from Shasta College who would be a good choice. She can reach out to see what he would charge. He worked for the City of Redding on the Sundial Bridge, a famous pedestrian bridge and art installation. Susan shared a picture of the bridge. May Fong Ho noted that the San Diego Zoo is also a resource. She can check to see if there is someone there who could advise us.

Dead Tree Removal: Work will begin on Friday. The contractors will save anything that Cabinet & Furniture Technology (CFT) can use. CFT is getting their sawmill repaired.

Herbarium: Beth Pearson reported that the work is going well.

Tour of San Deigo Safari Park Seed Bank: There was a discussion about what date would be best. The consensus was June 10th or 12th. A number of people are interested.

Wayne Armstrong said that he has a number of interesting plants that he could donate to the College, and Beth said yes.

Meeting adjourned 6:32.