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

**AUGUST 7, 2024**

**VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**In attendance:**

Antonio Rangel, President Beth Pearson

Dennis Astl Kurt Parmenter

Wayne Armstrong Pauline Riley

The meeting was called to order at 5:40. Everyone introduced themselves.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes

**Financial Report –** There was no report.

**President’s Report – Tony Rangel**

Tony announced that Susan Wyche has retired but she may stay on the Arboretum Board.

Seed Bank Tour at the San Diego Safari Park:

The tour was highly informative and insightful. There are some things we are doing right, some things we’re doing incorrectly and some things we’re not doing at all. Beth Pearson participated in the tour and took pictures.

Cactus and Succulent Garden Update:

The Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society is planning to hold their annual Picnic in the Garden on August 29th.

Campus Tours:

Beth suggested doing a Campus Tour this fall. Tony can do a tour on Saturday, September 14th.

Beth has a conflict on the 14th, but Dennis Astl recommended locking in a date and getting the word out. There was further discussion re the date.

Dennis Astl introduced the topic of doing a garden display for the San Diego Fair next year.

The display was disappointing this year and Palomar College might want to do one next year. Dennis said that the San Diego Fair chooses the theme every year. We would need to start working on it soon, that is, start growing the plants now. They could be used in the collections later. Tony has reservations about the labor needed to set up and take down the display. Beth suggested that the Outreach staff could possibly help.

Collaborative Research Opportunity:

The San Diego Natural History Museum wants to do a research project on the San Marcos campus. The Governing Board will have to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) paperwork. There is grant funding to research urban canyons near developed areas to determine species diversity and correlate that data to the size of the canyon. The research will include plants and animals, including insects by using pitfall traps. Tony noted that the Arboretum is finally becoming what its original founders envisioned – a place for research and learning, as well as a preserve for endangered plant species.

Tony noted that the San Diego Zoo has asked for more sugar cane plant material. The first time we gave them some, the zookeepers fed them to the gorillas. The second time, they lost them. Hopefully the third time is the charm. They also have plant material for us.

Interns:

Tony needs to get back to the interns. He has been playing “email tag” with them. They no longer need the credit, but they do want to stay on.

Vandalism on campus:

Last year someone took an ax to the trees by the track. It happened over a period of three months. It seemed like the perpetrator was gone, but Tony has seen new damage done to an old oak that was battered by a hammer. Five Police officers took pictures of the damage and made notes.

Hawaiian Threatened and Endangered Plants:

There are three Abutilon Eremitopetalum plants. One is not doing well; one is still in a planter in the office, and one has been planted outside in the landscaping by the NS Building. It is flowering and setting seed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25.