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

**JUNE 4, 2025**

**VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**In attendance:**

Antonio Rangel, President Beth Pearson

Dennis Astl May Fong Ho

Wayne Armstrong Kurt Parmenter

Pauline Riley

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes. May 2025 minutes to be approved next meeting.

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

**President’s Report – Tony Rangel**

**Trail Repair**

Tony shared pictures of trail erosion. Repair work will specify that a binder be applied to reduce future erosion. May Fong Ho asked how many years the repair work will last. Tony replied that it should last two to three years, depending on rain. May asked if there is a schedule or plan for yearly repair work and Tony said that there is a schedule. Dennis asked if the quote includes insurance and bonding. Tony responded that it does not, but he will get a revised quote and send it out for an email vote.

**Helix Environmental Proposals – Fire Break Defensible Space**

Tony shared a map with colored lines for brush and weed removal. Invasive species need to be removed for fire mitigation as well as protecting native species. This should be done every five to ten years. Road maintenance should be done every two to three years. There are some palm trees that need to be removed but he will have CA Tree Services remove them rather than Helix since they can do it for less. There was a discussion about the various areas on the map denoted by colored lines. Tony stated that no chemical will be used within 100 feet of the Early Childhood Education Center.

**Hubbell Structure Repair Work:**

Brennan Hubbell sent a proposal in the $3,615to repair the Structure that includes cleaning and repairing the bricks and covering the electrical junction box. He was able to obtain insurance so the work should begin in a couple of weeks

**Sustainability Task Force:**

Dennis has been working on the state-mandated Sustainability Task Force. The Chancellor has been pushing this initiative forward. It is a set of goals that have been approved by the Board of Governors, with a particular focus on providing clarity for these goals for colleges to follow. It includes the Climate Fellows who are five or six people with expertise in the area across the state. Dennis offered to host the Sustainability Task Force on campus for a one-day retreat. They were here today and took a tour of the Arboretum and the Cactus and Succulent Garden. They focused on sustainability programs such as the Diesel Tech Electric Vehicle Program, the Food Bank and other programs. They were very impressed. The Chancellor could not come today but wants to come later and meet with Dr. Star Lacey-Rivera. Tony noted that his team was there and made it a point to say thank you.

**Figs and Fig Wasps**

Wayne Armstrong noted that Palomar College has an amazing collection of fig species thanks to Tony and the San Diego Zoo. He has been collecting “fruit: of flower inflorescence. Wayne has been finding “bogus” fig wasps taking advantage of the variety of figs found on campus; i.e. particular species of wasps pollinating fig species with which they are not associated. He will consult with other groups in France and South Africa. A website called Fig Web in South Africa has a lot of information. In addition, Steve Desparti, a former student, has been looking up references since the 1800’s. This is a very unusual situation and warrants further investigation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18.