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

**AUGUST 6, 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 5:33 PDT.

**Minutes:** There were no minutes.

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

**President’s Report – Tony Rangel**

**1. Arboretum Well Upgrades**

The work is complete and the flow from the system can now be estimated. We also have the capability of running multiple systems at once. Some filters need to be cleaned. The trees should do better with regular irrigation.

**2. By-Laws**

The By-Laws were tabled until the next meeting. Beth Pearson will make edits and send them out to everyone. She asked that anyone email suggested changes to her. One issue is that membership dues are either mailed to the Foundation or paid online through the Foundation website and the Arboretum Committee is not notified. We need to develop a system whereby we are informed of new members or renewals.

**3. Hubbell Structure Repair Work:**

Brennan Hubbell submitted his proposal to the Contracts Office and they sent it back with needed changes. The paperwork states that the work is to be done by October. Once approved, we will need to request a check from the Hubble Structure Account.

**4. Cost of Ownership Spreadsheet**

Dennis Astl shared the spreadsheet that lists projected annual costs to maintain the Arboretum as well as biannual, triannual, and other costs at recurring intervals. These include trail repair, irrigation repair, tree care, maintenance equipment, fertilizer, part-time workers, event expenses, etc. Tony noted that the new Director of Facilities, Mike Obermiller, will be interested in seeing this.

**5. Arboretum Signs**

The signs are almost ready to be finalized. They have been sent to Campus Police to review and they should respond soon. Tony shares images of the current versions. Pauline Riley asked if the signs would be posted in Spanish as well. Tony responded that they will be posted in both English and Spanish.

**6. Helix Environmental Proposal – Fire Break Defensible Space**

The proposal from Helix Environmental to do the fire break for $33,450 was approved with the provision that Round Up would not be used within 100 feet of the Child Development Center. The funds will be drawn from the Hunter Endowment.

**7. Trail Renovation**

The bid proposal for $29,000 has been approved. The only change was from 40 cubic yards of stabilized decomposed granite to 20 cubic yards. The contractor is LB Civil Construction, and the payment will be drawn from the Adams Family Endowment.

**8. Arboretum Events**

The next event is scheduled for Saturday, September 13th. Wayne Armstrong will present “The Strange and Beautiful World of Figs” at 9:00 am. There will be a classroom presentation followed by a walk through the Arboretum. Wayne will discuss the history of figs and the mystery of how figs are being pollinated on campus. Dennis Astl suggested making a flyer so that Julie Lanthier Bandy in the Public Affairs Office can post it on the Palomar News and social media.

**9. Other Business**

Full and Part-Time Positions: Tony reported that his staff have been requisitioned to maintain the new Football and Softball fields and the Athletics Complex landscaping. No additional staff have been hired. One groundskeeper was pulled off from the Rancho Bernardo Center leaving only one person there, and there is no one at the Fallbrook Center. The Arboretum itself needs one or two dedicated staff personnel. In total, he is down by five or six staff personnel. Tony discussed fundraising to fill these positions. One suggestion was a QR code for donations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40.