

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 14, 2020

The meeting was held on-line by Zoom. *[Note re context: during this time 2020, there have been no Docent tours, or in-person meetings, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

Present: Patty Santiago; Karen Howsam; Christine Holland; Jeff Vitucci; Shirley Waxman; Sara Bangser; Teda Pilcher; Paul Guido; Pattie Firestone; Vikki Duncan; Sarajum Quazi and Gail Stichler..

Absent: Irene Stone..

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heindenry.

President Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

On Motion, the Minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2020 were approved.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – PATTY SANTIAGO

Patty reported that diplomas were distributed on September 19th to the new active Docents. it was a nice event, since we could not have the usual “Docent Graduation and Recognition” celebration at the close of the Provisional year in June 2020.

Past President Mary Winder selected Molora Vadnais as Docent Of The Year, and this information was published in La Muse. It is hoped that once we can all meet again in person, that there will be a ceremony to recognize and celebrate Molora’s contributions.

The Executive Committee met by Zoom on September 15th.

The Museum has re-opened with the current galleries (the new galleries and reimagined Museum will open in approximately March 2021.) Patty especially recommends the “In The Meanwhile” exhibit.

VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

Karen expressed hope that we can continue to meet despite the fact that there is little happening with the Docent Council at this time.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

There is no report.

TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

As of the end of September, the savings account balance is \$10,318 and the checking account balance is \$5,702. During September Docent dues totaling \$445 were received. There are 12 Active Docents and 20 Sustainer Docents who have not paid their dues. After discussion, Patty will follow up to these Docents with calls to remind them that the Dues are payable and to remind them that they must be paid for the year to be included in the Docent Directory. Gail noted the advantages of Sustainer members including attendance at meetings and being included in the directory.

Jeff discussed the budget, which was discussed at the last meeting. He made some minor adjustments based on some projected changes to account for Docents not attending the National Docent Symposium this year, and some dues not being paid.

There was a **MOTION** to approve the budget for the fiscal year 2020/2021 and the motion was approved.

Note: The Written Treasurer Report and the Proposed Budget are attached to the hard copy of the minutes which are filed in the Secretary Binder in the Docent Office.

MEMBERSHIP – PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 69 active Docents and 46 Sustainers. Pattie will remind Docents to send in their hours. She notes that because of the cancellation of last spring's Docent Recognition event, the service pins which honor years of Docent service were not distributed, and she notes that we need to follow up at some time.

ADULT TEAMS – VIKKI DUNCAN AND SARA BANGSER

No new information to report.

STUDENT TEAMS – TEDA PILCHER AND IRENE STONE

No new information to report.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR – PAUL GUIDO

No report other than to note that two people have expressed interest in a future provisional training class.

RESEARCH – PATTY SANTIAGO FOR SARAJUM QUAZI

Patty noted that Sarajum has been working very hard with reviewing the newly submitted Docent research papers. Patty has reminded Sarajum that as Research Chair, she is not required to do her own research about the topics.

Teda noted that in previous years, each research paper was reviewed by a Curator for accuracy but that is not the case now. This is because of the increased burden on the Curators and the long delays experienced in getting approval. Patsy Hicks indicated that the Docent website will now indicate if a paper has or has not been reviewed by a Curator. Everyone expressed confidence that the Docents' high level of research will continue to be met.

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

There is no new information to report.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

Gail thanked Mike Ramey who has continued to spend so much time improving the website. He has spent the last year moving the website from the old version to the new version of WordPress. With this change, he has had to deal with a problem with formatting. Mike has reconstructed the information re past and current exhibitions. Some changes include: The Exhibition screens are now tiled into 3 fixed columns; the Past Exhibition screens have been made more serviceable; the Picture Gallery under "Meet the Board" has images that need to be updated .

Mike requests that all Board members send in updated photos for use on the website. Gail will follow up with a reminder.

All Board members noted their desire to keep publishing the hard copy Docent Directory. The information could also be placed on the Docent website.

Note: The Written Webmaster Report is attached to the hard copy of the minutes which are filed in the Secretary Binder in the Docent Office.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

Rachel notes the timing for printing of the Docent Directories. We will ask Docents to pay dues October 23rd, to be included in the Directory. Dues can be paid by check or by credit card to the Treasurer. The Directories will be printed by the 30th, and Rachel will mail them to Docents during the first week of November.

Rachel asks for feedback on the lectures at the Docent Council Zoom meetings. Everyone was extremely positive about the quality. We will keep the format of short introduction, lecture, and time for any questions. Rachel will continue to share the Speakers' power points with the Docents.

Patsy notes that teams are getting started for projects including Storytelling and Pen Pals.

The Museum has re-opened with the existing 3 galleries. There have been only about a dozen visitors per day, with Docents being a primary part of the visitors.

Patsy reminds us of the continuing virtual programs hosted by the Museum. On November 4 there will be a Parallel Story event. The *Dia de los Muertos* celebration is being planned and will be on-line this year. The Guide By Cell program is being developed will have a multiplicity of voices. Rachel is working on this, and will be contacting interested Docents.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

The Docent Council Board meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland

Board Secretary

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