

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 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, Irene Stone and Gail Stichler.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry.

President Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

On Motion, the Minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2020 were approved.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – PATTY SANTIAGO

It has been a quiet month. Patty and Pattie Firestone have been working on collecting Docent dues and now have all but one active Docent fully paid. We are hoping to collect dues still owed from 12 Sustainers, but have decided to include all Sustainers in the Docent Directory.

The Docent Directory has been proofed and is being printed; it will be mailed to Docents soon.

Sara has suggested an additional Agenda Item of “Special Projects” which is a great idea. That topic will be reported by Rachel [see below], who has submitted a written report on the topic.

Patty recorded a “*Travels With a Docent*” audio tour, which was approved and will be put on the web.

VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

Karen is following up on an idea proposed by Gail Stichler. She is arranging for a Virtual Tour of the Crystal Bridges Museum, to be made available to our Docents on January 28th. This news was met with enthusiasm and hopes for other similar “tours.” Sara asked if it would be appropriate to offer a modest fee, in thanks for the tour. The Crystal Bridges Museum did not request a fee, but Karen will raise the topic with them.

It is suggested that a gift of a SBMA catalogue would be a nice gift for a touring Docent.

On the topic of fee payments, it is noted that we are using the Asia Museum for our *Storyteller* program and we did provide payment of the regular fee. Shirley noted that in the past, the Museum’s CSP program has received several gift payments, of about \$100 each. In San Francisco, the Fine Arts Museum is charging a half-price fee of \$125 for a virtual tour.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

There is no report.

TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

As of the end of October, the savings account balance is \$10,319 and the checking account balance is \$6,439. During October, Docent dues totaling \$737 were received.

Note: The Written Treasurer Report is 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, 2 of which are on Leave of Absence. There are 46 Sustainers. Pattie will remind Docents to send in their hours, with reminders in the La Muse and at the next Docent meeting. Patsy notes the importance of recording Docent hours, to assist with Museum grant applications, and in general for the recognition of commitment to the Museum.

ADULT TEAMS – VIKKI DUNCAN AND SARA BANGSER

No new information to report.

STUDENT TEAMS – TEDA PILCHER AND IRENE STONE

Teda noted that the *Storytelling* project is going well, with 13 Docents and Elena Hancock working on the project. There have been 4 workshops on Zoom on several different topics. She thanks Patsy and especially Rachel for their support and help. Patsy applauds the project and looks forward to a possible expansion. Gail noted the benefits of working with an outline or “spine” for creating a story.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR – PAUL GUIDO

No report.

RESEARCH – SARAJUM QUAZI

Sarajum continues to work with Docents who are submitting research papers. She notes that she sent a list to all Docents yesterday, with all Ludington Court objects needing research, and has already received a few replies.

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.

More research papers are coming in, and there has been one problem with loading them on to the new Word Press system, with changes made to certain spellings. She is working with Mike Ramey to correct the problem.

SPECIAL PROJECTS – RACHEL HEINDENRY

Rachel provided a report concerning the different Docent Special Projects, attached to the hard copy of the Minutes.

The *Community Pen Pals* project is headed by Loree Gold with 16 docents writing letters to 5 senior homes. Most active is the Rhona Barrett senior village, and the director has been enthusiastic in her thanks.

Travels With a Docent has 7 participants. Pattie Santiago has created her guide and several more will follow.

Storytelling has been a big success. The workshop concludes tomorrow.

The *Guide By Cell* program is getting underway, with 16 Docents participating. Each Docent will pick a work of art and create a 2-minute video. Rachel is the liaison with the Curatorial Department. She will send out detailed information to the team tomorrow. The plan is for the program to launch in January for Museum visitors. Patsy notes the program is a wonderful way for Docents and visitors to engage with the art.

Research – Sarajum has reported on this project.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

Patsy noted that the Docent Council lectures by Museum Curatorial Assistants have been excellent and the Board agrees.

The Museum is open to visitors and there are about 200-300 per week, most from out of town. The Renovation project is on target for the opening in April 2021.

Patsy expressed deep thanks to Rachel and to all Docents; the work is important and it helps for all of us to be connected.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty adjourned the meeting at 10:13 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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