

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2021

Present: Karen Howsam; Christine Holland; Jeff Vitucci; Shirley Waxman; Pattie Firestone; Irene Stone; Denise Klassen; and Gail Stichler.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry.

President Patty Santiago was out of town, and Vice President Karen Howsam chaired the meeting.

Karen Howsam called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting were approved.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM FOR PATTY SANTIAGO

There was an Open House for Educators on September 22nd. Several Docents were present in the galleries to interact and answer questions.

Touring calendars for October have been sent out to Docents.

Patsy Hicks gave an outstanding presentation regarding VTS and other critical thinking strategies for student touring.

Additional curator tours have been scheduled.

There are QR Codes available for some of the artworks; Denise reports that these are not popular with visitors, and some find them difficult to use.

VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

Karen continues to work to set up the December 13th Holiday Party, and to organize a trip to Dallas museums and to the Crystal Bridges Museum.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

No report.

TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

There was little financial activity last month. He did receive a check from a Sustainer. He has received several checks in honor of Jerry Jensen. A discussion followed re possible uses for the funds donated, including purchasing a work of art.

The balance in the checking account is \$14,531 and the savings account balance is \$10,333.

It is noted that there are significant balances and there should be a discussion about ways to use the money. Perhaps a Board committee could be created to look into this.

MEMBERSHIP – PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 55 Active Docents, 8 Docents on Leave of Absence, and 35 Sustainer Docents. She reminds us of the importance of reported research and public hours.

ADULT TEAMS – DENISE KLASSEN AND LAURA DEPAOLI

Adult tours started on September 14th, and are well-attended. There were 28 adult tours with 241 attendees. Average attendance is 9.6 visitors per tour.

There was a discussion re positive response by visitors and by touring Docents to the requirement for the use of masks. There are black masks for Docents available at the visitor desks.

STUDENT TEAMS – IRENE STONE AND TEDA PILCHER

Irene thanked and applauded the VTS training presentation by Patsy Hicks. Loree Gold gave a presentation about the Siqueiros Mural. There is uploaded information on the Docent website.

There are 7 Student Tours scheduled for this month. One group requests a tour regarding “Materials and Techniques” and the team leader, Pattie Firestone, is working with team members to create a tour on that topic.

Irene discussed her work in helping new Docents schedule times to shadow some student tours.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR

No report. [There is no Provisional Class for this year 2021-2022.]

RESEARCH – SARAJUM QUAZI

There is no report.

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

Evaluations for Student Teams will begin soon for the New Active Docents. Senior Docents on Student Teams will not be evaluated this year unless the team leader identifies any issues.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

Gail gave congratulations to Mike Ramey for continuing work, and Karen Howsam thanked Gail and Mike for their excellent work. Gail reported that Mike keeps the website current and is up-to-date on the Van Gogh and other exhibits.

Documents on the Docent website that discuss student touring will remain under the provisional training portion of the website. At the Board’s suggestion, Mike will be asked to put in a note on the touring part of the website to indicate where information on student touring is posted.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

Patsy expressed many thanks for all the work of Docents during a challenging year.

Patsy noted that future plans for the museum construction will include Education Department and Docent areas, but this will be several years in the future.

Rachel noted that she is starting to work in earnest to prepare for the Van Gogh exhibit and will be sending information to Docents.

For the new Provisional class, Rachel notes she has already received 25 inquiries about joining the next Provisional class. Rachel suggests involving these people, perhaps by asking them to attend a special tour. We also contemplate the usual Docent recruitment event for May 2022, with interviews in the summer for the Provisional class to start Fall 2022. The Board asks Patty Santiago to contact Erika Budig who expressed interest in being Provisional Chair, to confirm her interest. Erika should be asked to join the Board starting in January 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Karen adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

A social hour for all Docents and Sustainers followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland, Board Secretary