

MINUTES

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Present: Patty Santiago; Karen Howsam; Christine Holland; Jeff Vitucci; Shirley Waxman; Pattie Firestone; Irene Stone, Teda Pilcher; Denise Klassen; Laura DePaoli; Sarajum Quazi; and Gail Stichler.

Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks and Rachel Heidenry.

President Santiago called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of the June end-of-year meeting have previously been approved by e mail.

BOARD REPORTS

PRESIDENT – PATTY SANTIAGO

Patty highlighted some wonderful events in the past few weeks. First, the reopening of the Museum in August was a cause for celebration. On opening day, there were hundreds of guests, and 15 Docents volunteered to welcome the visitors. Patty noted how important the Museum is to the city's cultural life.

Patty thanked Shirley and several volunteers for a delightful summer party at Shirley's house.

The Docent Service Recognition meeting was a pleasure, and everyone's service is appreciated. We were pleased that both Director Larry Feinberg and President of the SBMA Board Nick Mutton joined us for the meeting and gave their remarks to us..

Recently, there were evaluations of 14 Provisional Docents and all but one passed. Also, two will delay having an evaluation until next year. One does not want to tour now due to concerns about Covid.

There was a general discussion about several Docents. First, much was said in appreciation and memory of Jerry Jensen who recently died. We noted with appreciation that Jerry had asked that any donations in his memory be made to the Docent Council. Also, Jerry's widow Nancy will be sending a check in Jerry's memory. The Board decided to send flowers to Nancy, and discussed possible uses for donations that arrive, including possibly purchasing a work of art or endowing a lecture in Jerry's name. Christine will be in contact with Nancy for further information.

Additionally, there was a general discussion re the status of Docent Mary Joyce Winder's health as she is facing serious issues. The Board expressed affection and concern, will send a card to her and her husband.

VICE PRESIDENT – KAREN HOWSAM

Karen is working on a possible Docent trip to Dallas museums and to the Crystal Bridges Museum, and discussed some details about current plans. The trip is projected for late April 2022. Also, there is a possibility of a bus trip to a museum in the spring.

SECRETARY – CHRISTINE HOLLAND

No report.

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TREASURER – JEFF VITUCCI

Jeff prepared a report concerning the last two months. As of the end of August, the savings account balance is \$10,332 and the checking account balance is \$9,657. He notes that we still have approximately \$400 in this year's budget for miscellaneous expenses. There will not be a National Docent Symposium this year.

MEMBERSHIP – PATTIE FIRESTONE

There are 56 Active Docents and 35 Sustainer Docents. About 13 Sustainers have not paid dues this year and Patti will contact them re their intentions. Reported research hours are very low due to low response.

There was a Board discussion re a request from Pat Jones, a not-yet-evaluated Provisional Docent, for a LOA. Upon discussion, and considering the unusual year and health concerns with touring, the Board decided to allow the LOA request for a period up to May 31, 2022. In order for Ms. Jones to continue being a part of the Docent Council and an Active Docent, there will be a requirement that she give a tour for evaluation in June, and if she passes, she must begin touring in July.

There are four other Provisional Docent who have been previously approved to defer their Evaluations or take short LOA>

ADULT TEAMS – DENISE KLASSEN AND LAURA DEPAOLI

Denise noted that touring assignments were distributed in July, there was a meeting of Team Leaders in August, and Adult Tours started this week. The Tour Calendars have been finalized through the end of September. There is a need for another 1 or 2 Docents to join the Nature & Spirituality team and the Summer Highlights team.

STUDENT TEAMS – IRENE STONE AND TEDA PILCHER

Teda reported that the Storytelling and the Artful Making tours have been postponed but we hope to resume them in a few months. On September 13th, Irene, Teda and the Education Department met with Student Team leaders, and provided them with a detailed information packet to pass along to their team members.

Only New Actives will be evaluated this year for Student Tours.

On September 22nd, the Education Department will host an Open House for about 100 teachers, and several Docents will attend and be available to answer questions.

On September 29th, Patsy Hicks will provide a demonstration of VTS touring.

PROVISIONAL CHAIR

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

RESEARCH – SARAJUM QUAZI

Sarajum has reviewed several new papers and has sent them to the website for publishing. She notes that new articles have been posted on the website. She is looking at which objects still need research papers and has sent out info to Docents to ask for research.

EVALUATIONS – SHIRLEY WAXMAN

Shirley noted a “marathon two weeks” of evaluations of the Provisional Class, 12 of whom passed their evaluations and are now New Actives. One person did not pass and has left the program. There are still four to evaluate in the future.

Special Exhibit teams will begin this month by team members. Only New Actives will be evaluated for Student Tours.

Patty recognized and thanked Shirley for her excellent work in finding and organizing Docents to do so many evaluations, and thanked the evaluators.

WEBMASTER – GAIL STICHLER

Gail gave Congratulations to Mike Ramey for his award of 2021 Docent of the Year, and spoke of his excellent work and contributions.

Gail asks to be updated if there are changes in Student and Adult Team tour lists.

Gail will be discussing the idea of listing the documents for Student Touring on the general area of the Docent website.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – PATSY HICKS AND RACHEL HEIDENRY

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

Patsy praised the Curatorial walk-through tours, which will help Docents to prepare their tours.

There will be a lecture at the next Docent meeting regarding bronze casting, and Patsy is preparing for future lectures.

Some Student Tours will go ahead, mostly for students in private schools (the Public Schools will not be allowing tours this year due to concerns about Covid transmission).

Rachel thanked the Docent Board members for a supportive year. She notes that new Docent badges are available at the Park entrance desk. Huber (Co-Chief of Security) is working on new emergency procedures for the Museum and will provide those to us when completed. The “Red Book” and the “White Book,” for recording information about tours given, are located at the Ludington entrance desk.

There are some social gatherings being planned for after Board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty thanked all on the Board for their work during an unusual and somewhat difficult year, and adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Holland, Board Secretary

Next Docent Board Meeting: Wednesday October 13, 2021.