

**Potter Park Zoo Docent and Volunteer Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 26, 2017**



The meeting began with a welcome and congratulations to the docent class of 2017.

Association officers were introduced.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Val Johnson.

Becky Morningstar spoke about the current high school class and their upcoming exhibit design presentation. She asked for anyone interested in judging the designs to contact her. She also invited everyone to come see the designs in the Safari Room on Friday, May 26, 2017.

Jennifer Horvatin presented Jan Marrow with her 15-year pin and silver emeritus name tag.

Minutes from meeting on March 22, 2017, were approved.

Ed Pinheiro presented the Treasurers Report. The report was approved.

Old Business

- **New Docent Manuals:** Reimbursements for the new docent manual have been less than anticipated.
- **By-Laws Committee:** The by-laws committee includes Diane Rigotti, Kayla Stomack, Val Johnson, Ed Pinheiro. Val Johnson requested reviews to the committee by May 1st.

Committee Reports

- **Book Club:** No report.
- **Conservation:** Cynthia Holt gave the conservation committee report. Funds for the Puerto Rican Crested Toad will be disbursed after AZA accreditation. There will be a table at Wine & Stein on May 18th.
- **Enrichment:** Jill Garrett reminded us that Party for the Planet is Saturday, April 29th and will include enrichment events. She also thanked everyone who helped with the 17th year of Big Zoo Lessons.

New Business

- **Volunteer/Docent Enrichment**
 - Julie Brunner announced a movie outing on May 16th to see Born in China. An e-mail will be sent out with the time.
 - Val Johnson requested that suggestions for a summer trip be sent to Kayla Stomack.
- **Spring Fling**
 - Val Johnson announced that the association will provide snacks.
 - She encouraged everyone to bring a refillable water bottle since bottled water will not be provided by the association.
- **New Education Component**
 - Ed Pinheiro has created handouts for teachers and students to be distributed after certain tours and has plans to draft more handouts.
 - Meetings will be held to have the handouts approved by Zoo staff.
- **Wine & Stein**

Association fund raising at the 2017 Wine & Stein will go towards the cost of the trip.
- **Volunteer/Docent Garden**
 - An area on the trail across from the VEZU has been set aside for a volunteer/docent garden.
 - A design has been created, and the garden needs to be in place by May 8th.
 - Anyone interested in helping with the garden should contact Kayla Stomack, Val Johnson, or Carrie Green.

- **Tech Support**

Jennifer Horvatin's work schedule makes it difficult for her to provide tech support to anyone using the San Diego Zoo Academy Web site for on-going education. A list of volunteer tech support is being worked out to provide assistance.

Staff Reports

Dennis Laidler

- Party for the Planet and Falconers
 - Theme is "Every Day is Earth Day."
 - Starting early for Falconers.
- Painting needs to be done in some of the behind-the-scenes areas and docents have been requested, with the understanding that docents have the training to know how to conduct themselves in these sensitive areas.
- Work Day
 - One hundred volunteers accomplished a lot.
 - Diane Rigotti filled 39 leaf bags.
 - Becky Lesmez painted staff gate.
- Animal Updates

Jennifer Horvatin

- Thanks to everyone who signed up for volunteer day.
- Migratory Bird day is June 3rd. Sign-up sheet is available.
- Gift shop and concessions are now run by county. Employee, volunteer, docent discounts are no longer available. Ten percent discount to zoo members with membership card.
- Wine & Stein will be on May 18th from 6:00 to 10:00 pm.

Other Business/Issues

Katie Licht, PPZ Docent, member of the Association for Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers, editor of the association newsletter.

- Electronic version of newsletter was sent on April 26th, and paper version should be arriving soon.
- Andrea Kepsel is proof reader of the newsletter. This makes PPZ well represented at the national level.
- Membership to the association is \$20.
- Attended the mid-year meeting, which is a site visit for the upcoming conference.
- The next conference is in October at the Greensboro Science Center. The Center is a combined Museum, Zoo, and Aquarium.
- The association meetings serve as brainstorming events dedicated to finding educational opportunities for volunteers and docents.

Meeting adjourned.

Our next meeting will be on May 24, 2017, at 7:00 pm at the Zoo.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Holt, Secretary