



**HORTICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017, 5:00 pm, Room 1687**

**Approved**

**A. Introductions**

**Vicki Shipman**, CTE Project Manager, opened meeting at 5:05pm

**Members Present:**

**Gina Bonanno**, Alameda County Master Gardener, Sun Flower Hill

**Tyler Coen**, Golden State Garden Concepts

**Lynn Monica**, Sunflower Hill

**Maryln Moore**, Former Student

**Michael Soares**, BrightView Landscape Services

**Jim Gioia**, Las Positas College

**Nan Ho**, Las Positas College

**Tom Fuller**, Las Positas College

**Vicki Shipman**, Las Positas College

**Absent:** Carole Frost, Las Positas College

**B. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

This is the inaugural Horticulture Advisory Board Meeting. There are no prior minutes.

**C. Quick Facts for Advisory Board**

**Vicki Shipman** shared with the board that as a CTE program we are required by the Education Code to have an advisory board to keep our programs current with the industry they serve. The most important role as an advisor is to bring your occupational expertise to the college so that we can improve our curriculum. Some advisory member activities include curriculum development, guest speaking, providing work based learning activities and job opportunities for students

**D. Update from Industry Partners**

**1. New Technologies**

- **Tyler Coen**- shared that he received a BFQP (Bay Friendly Qualified Person) training certification. Bay Friendly and Stop Waste.org work together to educate the public about lawn reduction and water conservation. Lawn removal and drought friendly renovation projects have been the majority of his business for the past several years and he thinks that this could be part of the curriculum and perhaps training certifications or internship programs could be considered.

- **Michael Soares** – sees a greater demand in their maintenance division for individuals trained in the new irrigation technology. With the new more sophisticated smart controllers, there is need for people with skills with this technology. There may be potential to partner with industry (Rain Bird or WeatherTrak) to get controllers on campus for use and providing working knowledge of this new technology. Highest income potential is in the area of irrigation and LPC could offer classes that people in the industry could take to further their career.

### Discussion

- **Lynn Monica**- agrees that a certification in Irrigation would be desirable.
- **Tyler**- sees a parallel with the pesticide management class.
- **Tom Fuller**- doesn't see many professional people enrolling in his classes, mostly hobbyists and home owners
  - **Michael**- we need to connect with industry and market to landscape companies that classes are available for their employees to advance their skills. His employees would benefit from classes on pesticide management, irrigation, and tree care. Entry level employees come in with no skill set, but the opportunity to advance is tremendous and with schooling it would be even faster.
  - **Jim Gioia** wonders if Michael knows of anyone who could serve as adjunct faculty to teach these classes.
- **Michael** offered that BrightView would open their offices and jobsites to field trips. Showing students what opportunities are in the industry. There are not enough students out there to fill the jobs in Landscape Maintenance, Landscape Design, and Managerial positions.
- **Maryln Moore**- the program takes time to build and the college needs to be patient and let lower enrollment classes to go forward. It takes too long to get through program and get certificate with classes being cancelled if there are not enough students.
  - **Nan Ho**- We have advocated to have Horticulture classes run despite lower enrollment and are now offering three classes per semester.
- **Nan Ho**- hears very clearly there is a need to have streamlined pathway to different types of certifications. While we have a degree and the certificate which take a longer time to complete, we could offer local based certificates. They could be 10 or 12 unit certificates. We could condense classes so they take place in half a semester and within a year students take 4 classes, receive the 12 unit certificate and become hireable. Nan wants to hear from industry what 3 or 4 courses would you want them to have?
  - **Michael**- besides Irrigation and Horticulture skills there is need for managerial skills and soft skills. How to manage and deal with people.
- **Nan**- expressed appreciation for hearing the ideas from industry. The most important role of advisory is to advise on curriculum. The curriculum has not been updated in a long time. Tom has been working on updating several courses. This is where the advisory board can be of help to tell us what we need. It would be helpful if board members could look at curriculum outlines and give feedback on what to add or change.
  - Decisions to be made about how often to offer Hort 50. Now offered once per year. **Tom** asked if we even need Intro to Horticulture or should we get right into the program.
  - **Michael**-doesn't see a need for Intro to Horticulture, students could just delve right in.
  - **Nan**- it could be a 1 unit class over 8 weeks good option for people who work. It would be less expensive.
  - **Tyler**- disagrees and thinks it is a valuable class and is important because it covers a broad spectrum of survey of all the areas in horticulture entices people into program
- **Nan**- it is possible to create 1 or 2 unit classes that would be less expensive, get students through quickly and be a good option for people who work. A good example is Intro to Engineering- a 2 unit course. It is cost effective and it gives an overview of all of engineering and students can

branch out from there. Over the next year we should systematically go through courses and look at unit values.

- **Nan-** we have discussed cross listing classes with the Viticulture program. Example: pest management- it doubles our efficiency.
- **Maryln-** thinks that the plant material class needs to stay a 3 unit class.
- **Lynn-** believes we need to show pathway to careers in landscaping starting in high school.
  - **Gina Bonnano-** asked how can we promote at the high schools? LPC can have a great program and plentiful job opportunities, but we need to find a way to promote to students at high school. Need to find a way to make Horticulture stand out and show that it is a cool and exciting field.
  - **Vicki-** stated that we do promote our CTE programs to high school, but admittedly Horticulture hasn't had much effort made. However, we are working on a new brochure and updating the website. Also, we are hosting a Career Exploration Open House on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and are marketing to high schools and middle schools.
  - **Marylyn-** shared information on the career fair at Granada HS. **Michael** said it would be worthwhile for him as an employer to exhibit at career fair.
- **Vicki-** Strong Workforce development funds are available – moving forward with creating more certifications to complement our existing CTE programs.
- **Jim-** We should focus and choose one area, such as irrigation and figure out how to teach to the certificate and build from there. Then we can add other components as we go along.

## 2. Training Needs

- **Tyler-** Plant knowledge is so critical even more than irrigation. Irrigation needs are based on knowledge of the plants watering needs.

## 3. Hiring Needs

- **Michael-** There are not enough students out there to fill the jobs in Landscape Maintenance, Landscape Design, and Managerial positions.

## 4. Industry Trends

- **Lynn Monica-** Organic gardening and Farm to Fork programs. There is a big movement to connect farmers to schools and producers are selling food to schools for nutrition and healthy school meals.
- **Lynn-** Another industry trend or outlook is water management and how to solve the water problems.

## E. Faculty Report

### 1. Program Update

- **Tom-** would like to see the program get involved in aquaculture and hydroponics. Room for big growth in that industry.
- **Tom-** is developing a course in Auto Cad for Landscape design and would like to cross list that with Interior Design.
- **Vicki-** Horticulture and Viticulture are the number two priority in Measure A expansion. College will be developing a user group for guidance in building out new Horticulture/Viticulture space and she hopes one of the advisors will participate in this user group.

2. **Adaptive Horticulture Program**

- **Jim-** shared that we are developing an Adaptive Horticulture Certificate Program focusing on adults on the autism spectrum. This summer there will be a 4-day camp to begin recruiting and introduce students to program. Program will start in the fall. Consists of four classes, each eight weeks long, along with internship component. It is not for credit and is a grant funded project.

3. **Integration Ideas for Curriculum**

- **Vicki-** We have already covered this agenda item at length throughout the discussion.

F. **Next Steps**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm  
Minutes submitted by Anne Kennedy