

Horticulture Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

10/11/2017 | 3:0

Vicki from PepperCreek reports that the floral shop business has been strong and it was a great summer wedding season. In March, PepperCreek joined WeddingWire and has received all 5 star reviews. Vicki thanks her great team for contributing to these great reviews. She currently has a KC horticulture graduate on her team and she is doing great. Larry and Vicki report doubling their wedding business this year and believe joining Wedding Wire played a significant part in that.

Laurie reports a recent landscape website that was launched. She describes it as being similar to Amazon but exclusively for landscape/wholesale product.

Vicki reports that her and Larry participated in "Petal It Forward" today in Rockford. Research has shown that giving and receiving flowers boosts happiness in both parties. Vicki and Larry gave away 200 4-stem bouquets in a half hour at this event and it was a great experience.

Curriculum Update | Hydroponics Class

Rich reports the Hydroponics course was going to be offered as a 3 credit hour course however, it didn't run so we will be offering a 1.5 credit hour class as a second 8 week course this semester. There are currently 6-7 students registered for the course.

Rich is working on getting all of the systems set up for hydroponics in the greenhouse. Believes this course will be a great asset to our program.

Matt Feuerborn thanks the Foundation for funding through the DK Family donation for the hydroponics lab.

Bill reports Mighty Vine and Bright Farms coming into the community influenced our decision to create this course as it seems to be the "way of the future." These companies have national contracts and are regionally strong companies. Bill is hopeful to create internship opportunities with these companies in the future.

Matt Ewert reports taking Chef Rudy, our new on-campus chef, and Monique, our Food Service Director, on a tour to see the vegetables that we grow here on campus. They are excited at the opportunity to use the veggies at the Kish Café.

Rich announces that KC donated veggies to a food pantry in Lee this year.

Marketing/Recruitment | Dual Credit

Matt Feuerborn reports that KC has received a Dual Credit Enhancement grant and KC's focus this year is going to be on enhancing existing programs and fostering stronger relationships between KC faculty and high school Horticulture faculty as well as faculty exchanges.

Plans include working with Indian Creek High School with their landscaping courses

