



# Horticulture Advisory Board Agenda

October 28, 2025 | 4:00 | Room 3302 & Zoom

## LPC Mission Statement

Las Positas College is an inclusive, learning-centered, equity-focused environment that offers educational opportunities and support for completion of students' transfer, degree, and career-technical goals while promoting lifelong learning.

## LPC Planning Priorities

- ❖ Establish a knowledge base and an appreciation for equity; create a sense of urgency about moving toward equity; institutionalize equity in decision-making, assessment, and accountability; and build capacity to resolve inequities.
- ❖ Increase student success and completion through change in college practices and processes: coordinating needed academic support, removing barriers, and supporting focused professional development across the campus.

## Horticulture Advisory Board

### Members:

Paula Checchi  
Tyler Coen  
Laura Cornett  
Tod Lawsen  
Abby Lourenco  
Beth McCormick  
Loren McIrvine  
Lynn Monica  
Jean O'Neil-Opipari  
Victor Ruesga  
Eric Santos  
Vicki Shipman  
Michael Soares  
Kristi Vanderhoof  
Jacquie Williams-Courtright

### 1. Call to Order 4:09

**Laura Cornett, Loren McIrvine, Eric Santos, Jacquie Williams-Courtright, Lynn Monica, Paula Checchi, Tyler Coen, Jean O'Neil-Opipari**

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

### 3. Review of Agenda

### 4. Review and Approval of Minutes, May 1, 2025

- Laura attended conference regarding olives at UC Davis
- Olive Harvest – small fruit, fruit flies last year. This year fruit is bigger and not as many pests. Harvest for 2025 is Nov 22
  - Issue with # of volunteers for picking and sorting, time-consuming
- IER for fruit shaker
- Looked at getting our own press, but maintenance and food safety, so opted not to
- Resurrected the Hort club
- Talked about incorporating CAD (with landscape-specific CAD) in landscape design.
  - AI may be doing a lot of this work in 5 years, so it may not be tied to a specific program
  - Maybe start with a Principles of Design class

### 5. College Update

### 6. Fall 2025 Enrollments

- Enrollments strong
- No fraud
  - Hort 50, Robbie – 32 students
  - Irrigation, Eric - 14 students
  - CA Native, Matt – 19 students
  - Urban Ag, Zoe – 12 students
- Fall 2025 Classes
  - Hort 50 – Introduction to Horticulture
  - Hort 60 – Landscape Irrigation Systems
  - Hort 62 – CA Native Dry Landscapes
  - Hort 74 – Introduction to Urban Agriculture
- Spring 2026 Classes

- Hort 53 - Landscape and Vineyard Pest and Disease Management (cross-listed with VWT) (Ed)
  - Hort 56 - Arboriculture/Urban Forestry (Loren)
- Hort 71 - Fundamentals of Hydroponics and Aquaponics (Robbie)
  - Hort 63 – Sustainable Landscape (Eric)
- Liaise with Community Food Banks
  - In April so much produce
  - Jean will connect Laura with food banks
    - Lynn – Tri Valley Haven easiest to donate to
  - Hort club can manage this
- Horticulture Club
  - Emergency vote last week for blanket expenditures
- Review of Seeds to Harvest, Al Co, Master Gardeners
  - On the recommendation of Jacquie from Alden Lane
  - 50 people signed up
  - 30 people came consistently
  - 18 people earned certificates
  - Good way to increase visibility of the Hort facility
  - Class was great
  - Students got a handbook and other resources
- Cares Grant
  - Only one STEM application so far
  - Due in November
- Revisit adaptive horticulture with PUSD
  - Talk with Susan Houghton
  - Continue talks regarding this program
  - Laura is the only regular staff in Hort which is a barrier to resurrecting this program
  - Need new funding stream for the program
  - Plant Sale – Fall
  - Not our largest sale, that is in the Spring
  - Mostly succulents and ornamentals
  - Clean up ornamentals
- Trip to UC Davis, November 18, learn about fertigation (Irrigation and fertilization)
  - Ways to deal with water quality
- Laura thanks Board for their support of the horticulture community
- Jacquie – In the past Alden Lane donated plants for graduation, but that fell apart
  - Pick up plants on Friday
  - Veterans First has helped in the past
  - Loren can help with a truck
  - Partner with someone to P/U plants and move plants around
  - Jean will contact Dr. Wilson regarding plants

## **7. Industry Updates**

- Training and Hiring Needs
  - Alden Lane is always looking for people with skills, looking for a plant buyer right now
    - Retail is soft right now
    - Will probably be looking for people in the Spring

- Master Gardeners table in the Spring
  - Loren is always looking for someone
    - Training – vocational training
- Last year at Al Co Fairgrounds in the overhang for livestock - Planting plants, etc
- Looking for a location, open to all colleagues
  - Big Projects coming up for Eric
    - May have opportunities for students
    - Tod is retiring in June
    - Tyler is always looking for horticulturists and designers
    - Design includes lighting, hardscape
- Emerging Trends
  - Regarding business course - Use of social media to introduce students to horticulture industry – Tyler
    - Loren -maybe have Tyler come talk to a class regarding social media
  - Lynn- Have you thought about having a class on how to market products?
  - Bring in experts to do guest lectures
    - Adds more depth to class
- Internship Opportunities

#### **8. Recommendations from the Board**

- Explore adding a business class to the Horticulture curriculum (Lynn)
  - Learn how to liaise, start a business, and understand profit/loss
  - Lynn motions, Loren seconds the motion, and the motion passes to explore options for adding a business class to the curriculum.

**9. Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2026, 4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**10. Adjournment 5:36**