

Minutes for the HIPS Board meeting on May 9th, 2017

The teleconference meeting was called to order by President Cathy Egerer at 9 PM EST

I. Secretary Linda Bell took the roll. Board members present were: Cathy Egerer, Linda Bell, Judy Keisling, Gary White, Dorothy Stiefel, Delane H. Langton, Shaub Dunkley, Judy Schneider, Linda Baumgartner, Dave Prichard, Doug Paschall, Lori Lensch-Marcotte, Kate Brewitt, Nancy McDonald, Paul Gossett, and Susan Flow. Not present: Judy Eckhoff, Charlie Carver and Laetitia Munro

II. There were no additions or changes to the agenda

III. Previous meeting minutes were approved online.

IV. Treasurer's Report was given by Judy Keisling. Balance as of December 31st, 2016 was \$33,707. There are two funds that are not accessible—a CD pending and the Life Membership account. There are three checking accounts including the primary one with \$17,136, Paypal account with \$9,452, and the life member account with \$7,119. HIPS is quite solvent and added \$7,672 in funds during 2016.

V. President Cathy Egerer reported that the HIPS program at the AIS Convention in Des Moines will feature Bob Pindell speaking on the Dorothy and Tony Willott Garden in Cleveland. There will be a HIPS table at the convention. The 2017 Budget is currently being formulated and will be presented soon. There will be a locator column in the newsletter regarding missing Historic irises.

VI. Old Business

A. Committee Chair updates

1. Membership chair not present, but President Egerer announced that HIPS now has 780 members, including 32 E-members.

2. Member Databank Update: Lori is in the process of updating the list of newly found Historic irises. Kate asked about locating the list online—it can be found under the big green box titled What are You Growing? More people are reporting, and Lori is working to get all data current; the list is up to 5000 cultivars.

3. Display Garden update: Kate reported that there are 4 new display gardens, for a total of 37 this year. New gardens include one located in Prescott, Arizona; a residential garden in Indiana; and the Willott Garden in Cleveland, Ohio; also a member in Nashville, Tennessee has requested to be a display garden. One garden has been lost—the Fritz Lehmann garden in Germany has had no contact for 3 years. There is a need for more garden signs, and there was a question as to whether HIPS provides display plaques. Currently they must be paid for by the garden. The question was raised that perhaps HIPS should pay for the first plaque, and thereafter it would be the responsibility of the garden to maintain the signs. Nancy mentioned that the current plaques only last for one year and there may be a need to consider obtaining a different and longer lasting plaque.

4. GG/Preservation update: Doug is still working on the spreadsheet, and there are now over 60 Guardian Gardens. A major concern is the Winterberry Garden of Don & Ginny Spoon. A visit to the Spoon garden was proposed by Charlie Carver to preserve first, the Spoon's MDB collection which is the largest in the country (probably the world) according to the survey Charlie has been conducting for two years, and has many varieties currently known only to be growing in this garden. Assembling a National core class Collection was the pilot project for NC which began in 2016.

As it turns out the Spoons also have a large MTB collection with many known only to be growing in their

garden (according to a survey of that class underway) so the preservation of those MTB and the placement of those cultivars in the two current National Collections of MTB was also added to the campaign. Doug Paschall will organize volunteers to assist with any digging.

This visit will also be an opportunity to reconnoiter the entire collection that Don and Ginny have amassed. The collection is immense and will have treasures in many classes, not just the two that have been earmarked by the NC program so far. The hope is that we -- NC and GG and HIPS generally -- can address all preservation needs there over coming years.

The Guardian Gardens network has 26 new members and has doubled in size, and there are hopes to have over a dozen more members added. There have been several requests from Institutions to partner, and there is the possibility of contacts and exchanges with Europe. Susan shared information about the Wanda Rezac rescue. There are 33 cultivars not adopted, she will put the list together and send it out. There have been 22 adopters, with the possibility that this may not continue next year, so it is important to get all cultivars adopted this year.

VII. New Business

A. Rhizome Sale - Judy Schneider advised that the 2017 sale structure will remain the same format as 2016, but will be combined with the Pickle Barrel sale. This way more irises will be donated to HIPS and the leftovers will not be sold in bulk, they will go to the Pickle Barrel display garden sale to support that garden. The sale date has been changed to avoid the Fourth of July holiday. Packets with directions will be sent to donors in June, and the three days for HIPS members will begin on July 22, with the public sale beginning on July 25 and ending July 27. There will be an article published in ROOTS advertising the sale.

There will be no beardless irises due to the need for additional packaging care. Buyers can either join HIPS for the sale or wait for the public sale.

B. The Slate of Nominees for the annual Meeting was presented by Paul Gossett.

President - Cathy Egerer

Vice-President - Dave Pritchard

Secretary - Madeline West

Treasurer - Judy Keisling

Northwest Director- Janet Smith from California

South Central Director - Wendy Scott from Oberlin, Kansas

VIII. Other - Cathy will plan to visit with HIPS members at the AIS convention in Des Moines.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 EST/8:34 CST

Submitted by Linda Bell, Secretary