

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 21, 2020

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Scott at 9:02 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

II. Roll call by Secretary, Nina Morris.

A. Present: Wendy Scott, Dave Prichard, Nina Morris, Judy Keisling, Cathy Egerer, Delane Langton, Allyson Whalley, Suzanne Butler, Linda Baumgartner, Lori Vandette, Susan Flow, Gary White, Nancy McDonald, Laetitia Monro and Tammy Skahan.

B. Absent: Alice Laughlin, Janet Smith, Lori Lensch-Marcotte and Judy Schneider.

III. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the Agenda

IV. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Acknowledgement of Approval

V. Treasurer's Report

A. Written Interim Financial Report for the year-to-date was submitted prior to meeting via email to board.

B. Verbal report by Judy Kiesling: Year-to-Date Income of \$9,485.25 and Year-to-Date Expenses of \$7,203.78 for a Year-to-Date Profit of \$2,281.47. Expenses consisted of website work, archive scanning and Roots publication. Combined with Total Assets at end of 2019, it brings Total Assets as of September 30, 2020, to \$73,753.32. October expenses not included in the Report will be \$2190 for 480 of the Mahon books. A donation of \$876 from Nancy McDonald and Cathy Egerer, as well as a contribution of \$650 from Delane Langton from his iris sales, will offset the cost of the books.

VI. President's Report

A. President Wendy Scott welcomed Tammy Skahan, Preservation Projects Chair, and Allyson Whalley, the new Southeast Regional Director. Tammy has worked with iris in Missouri and Arkansas for 25 years, she has an iris farm, she loves NOIDS and wants to save everything she can. Allyson joined HIPS several years ago and has participated in building Historical Iris Garden Collections in Montpelier, VT, and in Washington, D.C.

VII. Old Business / Action Items

A. Committee/Chair Updates

1. Membership Update: Lori Vandette reported that HIPS had 803 members last November and currently has 768 members, 169 of which are new. Some 43 former members have not responded to the renewal notices she sent out.
2. Guardian Gardens Update: Nancy McDonald reported that interest in Guardian Gardens is slowly growing. There are now 200 GG members, including 2 new British members, which will encourage international exchange. Many of the members are also young, which will help HIPS to continue growing. When asked about reminders for GG members to send in data, Nancy responded that Jessica Kelley, GG recordkeeper, will have to work out an annual reporting due date. A discussion of the need for a current list of GG'ers revealed that the 2019 list on the website is actually the 2020 list. Cathy Egerer suggested renaming the list to show it is current.

Nancy reported that the sharing of GG irises was messed up during the absence of former program director and is hoping for a revitalized program next year. Sharing of rhizomes is an essential part of the program and a newsletter reminder will be issued. As a new GG member, Allyson suggested that guidance should be shared on the most critically needed iris and that Social Media might be useful for that purpose; she volunteered to help with that. Suzanne mentioned that a GG Watch List had been discussed previously. Volunteers will help put together that list this winter.

3. Breeder Collection Program Update: Nancy reported Alice Laughlin will take over management of the Breeder Collection Program and that it might work with the Guardian Garden program.
4. Preservation Projects Update: Tammy reported on four items: In June, a HIPS member was downsizing and proceeds of the preservation project went to HIPS. The second item did not work out—the party was not ready for a rescue. Next is salvage work in Arkansas: the party sells iris on Etsy and she will check to see what they have. Finally, Superstition Iris (Richard Tasco) is downsizing and discarding historic. She will see if we can help.
5. Archives/Scanning Update: Cathy Egerer reported that about \$1100 worth of scanning had been returned from the scanner and that the rest can be done in-house. Three hundred catalogs were put online. She posed the question as to what can be done with the old paper after scanning. Allyson suggested that the Tudor Place in Washington, D.C., could house the old paper documents.
6. Website Update: Laetitia Monro reported that the consultants were still working on the website but that they were hoping to be done by the following week. They had agreed to limit further charges. The sticking point was a member list with current email, user names and passwords. Cathy volunteered to help with the data upload to the website. Once the web-based member list is finalized, committee chairmen will work with that list, rather than any paper lists. President Wendy Scott thanked Latetia for her efforts on this project, and Nancy McDonald reminded the board that 45 minutes had passed.
7. Policies and Procedures Committee Update: Nancy McDonald reported that the committee had not met, but that they would during the winter.
8. Mentoring Program Update: Susan Flow reiterated that new members need mentoring, and Latetia emphasized that new GG'ers need help, too. Discussion centered around Regional Directors or even International Representatives referring them to local help. The program is in a state of flux and board members will continue communicating via email.

VIII. New Business / Action Items

- A. Mahan Book: Susan Flow reported that on October 1, 2020, she was contacted by Ann Kreiger, who was cleaning out a warehouse and found 480 copies of the Clarence Mahan book, "Classic Irises and the Men and Women Who Created Them". She offered to sell them for \$3.00 a copy plus \$750.00 shipping. Following an email discussion, the HIPS board gave permission to buy all the books. The hard-cover book has many color pictures and will be sold in the HIPS shop for \$30.00 a copy, below the price that other copies are selling for. For a \$2,200 investment, HIPS stands to reap a \$12,000 profit. Kreiger had also contacted the AIS and heard nothing back. According to Gary White, the AIS was not meeting until the end of the month and was still discussing the offer. The book is already listed on the HIPS website.
- B. Honors and Awards Committee: The Honors and Awards Committee would have given their award at the AIS Convention, but it was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Therefore, Gary White presented the award at this board meeting. The 2020 HIPS Distinguished Service Award was presented to two members: Nancy McDonald and Cathy Egerer. They will both receive an inscribed plaque and expressed their thanks for the award.

IX. Other

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Susan Flow to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Lori Vandette. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m. EDT

Respectfully Submitted by Nina Morris, Secretary