

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 30, 2020

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Scott at 9:01 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

II. Roll call by Secretary, Nina Morris.

A. Present: Wendy Scott, Dave Prichard, Nina Morris, Judy Keisling, Cathy Egerer, Alice Laughlin, Delane Langton, Shaub Dunkley, Suzanne Butler, Susan Flow, Gary White, Judy Schneider, Nancy McDonald, Laetitia Monro and Doug Paschall. Lori Vandette checked in later.

B. Absent: Janet Smith, Linda Baumgartner, and Lori Lensch-Marcotte.

III. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Wendy Scott advised that Item No. A-7 “Policies and Procedures Committee” under Old Business on the Agenda would not be addressed.

IV. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Acknowledgement of Approval

V. Treasurer’s Report

A. Written Interim Financial report submitted prior to meeting via email to board.

B. Verbal report by Judy Kiesling: Year-to-Date Income of \$3,287.70 and Year-to-Date Expenses of \$1,491.99 for a Year-to-Date Profit of \$1,795.71. Combined with Total Assets at end of 2019, it brings Total Assets as of April 30, 2020, to \$73,267.56. Total Assets are broken down as Roundout Bank Checking Account: \$44,711.32, Bank Midwest Checking Account: \$5,940.51, Roundout Bank Life Membership Fund: \$7,713.30; and PayPal Balance: \$14,902.43. This is an increase of \$1,795.71 from December 31, 2019.

VI. President's Report

A. President Wendy Scott reported that Lori Vandette, who had previously taken over the position of Membership Chair, had accepted the position of Display Gardens Chair, recently vacated by Kate Brewitt. She is in the process of finding an assistant in the United States.

B. President then thanked Committee Chairs who had posted their annual reports online.

VII. Old Business / Action Items

A. Committee/Chair Updates

1. Membership Update: Lori Vandette reported that she was doing research to ensure that membership expiration dates are accurate. She will be doing quarterly expiry dates rather than semi-annual dates to ensure that memberships run a full year—not more or less. She feels that this will be more fair to both members and HIPS, by eliminating the cost of sending copies of ROOTS to those who memberships are not current. Concerning Life Memberships, she reported that some 125 persons are on that list and she will check first with the board to see if any of them are no longer living. Response postcards will be sent out to those unknown by the board. Recipients will be asked to respond by email or by returning the card to the HIPS Secretary. If there is no response, they will be removed from the Life Membership list.

2. Guardian Gardens Update: Nancy McDonald has taken over the administrative responsibilities for Guardian Gardens from Dave Paschall. She reported that she had emailed everyone on the GG List: 38 members did not respond; some replied that they were no longer interested; but some 155 people responded that they are still interested in maintaining Guardian Gardens. She has posted a new Guardian Garden Handbook, as well as a new recordkeeping spreadsheet, on the website. She has posted a FAQ sheet, with Cathy Egerer's help, and revised the GG Forum, which she reports is more active than the HIPS Forums. She also reported that there are many younger GG members. She has added a new item to Guardian Gardens called a "Watch List, which is less critical than the "Threatened List". She feels it might be better for inexperienced GG'ers to start with a Watch List iris, rather than a rare, endangered iris, to be responsible for. Jessica Kelley is still maintaining GG iris records.
3. Breeder Collection Program Update: Nancy McDonald reports that information is only kept on Breeder Collection growers, rather than the actual irises being grown. That information should be included in the Members' Database. She suggested that a list of Breeder Collection growers might be featured in the Fall ROOTS, so those growers could be contacted by those interested in obtaining special iris.
4. Cultivar Preservation Committee Update: Nancy McDonald reported that there may be a party interested in the position. She discussed that the Cultivar Preservation committee started in 1995 and some of the original CP responsibilities are now the responsibility of other committees. A new name was suggested for the committee, possibly "Preservation Projects", but no formal decision was made. The committee would be responsible for organizing rescues and distribution of the irises. How those irises are distributed may be a subject for discussion, as not all rescues are actual "rescues", but may be a facilitated sale.
5. Archives/Scanning Update: Cathy Egerer reported that much scanning is now being done in-house and suggested that \$2000 from the scanning budget be diverted to website improvement. The suggestion was approved by all voters with no opposition. (It was later determined that the scanning budget had been reduced in the 2020 Budget, so that amount wasn't available to be diverted.) She also reported that non-HIPS-related documents had been scanned and returned to others. She suggested that older editions of ROOTS be kept on the AIS Wiki site, but that the four most recent editions be kept only on the HIPS website. This suggestion was also approved by all voters with no opposition.
6. Website Update: Laetitia Monro reported that the website needs work. The membership database requires updating and a new membership plug-in with a credit card option is essential to accommodate those desiring to join HIPS. Discussion centered around contacting web developers for upgrade proposals and timelines and reporting back to the board, but it was determined that things needed to move more quickly. Doug Paschall offered a motion that if the informal website committee of Laetitia and Cathy Egerer could find someone to do the work immediately for under \$1000, the work could proceed; if it would cost more than \$1000, they would report back to the board for approval. Shaub Dunkley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

B. Permission for Physical Addresses – AIS Form/HIPS Form

1. The AIS Permission Form will be retyped and distributed to give HIPS permission to print addresses of HIPS officers, directors and chairs.

VIII. New Business / Action Items

- A. Mentoring Program:** Nancy McDonald reported that HIPS needs young people and that many young people are new gardeners. She suggested a Mentoring Program to connect people in similar geographical areas so they can call or email someone for local help. Some discussion was held as to whether that could be something run the regional chairperson or another group of people who reported to the regional chairperson. Discussion will continue on the matter.

IX. Other

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Shaub Dunkley. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 p.m. EDT

Respectfully Submitted by Nina Morris, Secretary