

## Historic Iris Preservation Society

DRAFT - Minutes of the Board meeting of March 12, 2016

**I. Call to Order:** President Cathy Egerer called the meeting to order at 9:00pm EST.

Nancy McDonald was designated timekeeper for the teleconference call.

**II. Roll Call:** Secretary Linda Bell called the roll. Present - Cathy Egerer, Linda Bell, Judy Keisling, Judy Eckhoff, Nancy McDonald, Gary White, Brett Barney, Shaub Dunkley, David Prichard, Charlie Carver, Laetitia Munro, Delane H. Langton.

Absent - Dorothy Stiefel, Kate Brewitt, Judy Schneider, Susan Boyce, Paul Gossett, Rita Butler, Douglass Paschall, and Darlene Cook.

**III. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None.

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Judy Keisling reported that there were no current expenses. The December 31, 2015, balance was \$26,034.74, and there are several recently received checks that have not been deposited. There is a CD coming due in April. Cathy Egerer added that the 2016 budget passed unanimously and will be posted online.

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Guardian Gardens/Cultivar Preservation:** Cathy Egerer reported for Doug Paschall that the Guardian Gardens program now has 30 members. Doug will be making a presentation on the project at the AIS Convention in Newark. HIPS will be sending 14 Dykes Medal winners to England to add to the British National Collection. A discussion followed regarding the feasibility of maintaining collections here of the American, British, Australian, etc. Dykes winners and trying to establish trading with overseas gardens. Cathy has contacted James Hall, the head gardener who requested the 14 irises, about the possibility of sharing British winners.

**B. Rhizome sale:** Cathy Egerer reported for Judy Schneider that letters have been sent out to previous donors. The new rhizome sale outline and instructions are posted on the website and will appear in the Spring 2016 issue of ROOTS.

**C. Archives:** Cathy reported that Gesine Lohr has sent 7 boxes to Susan Boyce, and she will be contacted again to send the remaining boxes. Charlie asked if a HIPS member in the Bay Area could pick up the boxes; no decision was made.

**D. Bylaws:** no discussion. The committee continues to work on revisions.

**E. Website:** It was suggested that Laetitia make the Gallery entries searchable by iris class. She will look into setting that up. There is a problem with membership updating of photos/donor information that will be addressed with an index of all names without photos. The most recent

additions to the historic list will also be added.

**F. Public Relations:** Public Relations Chair Cathy Egerer reported that our HIPS Facebook page now has more than 2,000 followers. Mike Unser is posting several photos a week. Cathy stated that HIPS membership brochures need to be corrected and reprinted. Gary White suggested that the corrected membership brochure be available as a printable PDF on the website. Cathy will take care of it after the corrections are made. Doug Paschall has suggested that a small brochure on Guardian Gardens would be good to have available at the AIS Convention in Newark.

**G. Publication Sales:** Susan Flow was approved by the board as the new Publications Chair. She will take over from Susan Boyce in early April. HIPS thanks Susan Boyce for her service.

**H. ROOTS:** The deadline for the Spring 2016 issue is March 15th, and the issue is full. It is scheduled to go to the new printer on April 15th. There is space available for articles in the Fall 2016 issue.

**I. Display Gardens:** Laetitia mentioned that the 2016 Display Gardens list is posted on the website, with 33 gardens represented.

**J. Membership:** Judy Eckhoff reported that HIPS has approximately 740 members, but 80 will be deleted before the Spring 2016 issue of ROOTS if they do not renew. There are 16 e-members, 94 single life members, and 24 dual life members. A discussion regarding life members ensued, and several measures will be utilized to make a determination regarding their further interest in HIPS. There will be a membership drive for the summer, to be announced in the Spring issue of ROOTS. There will be awards for the members who bring in the most new members: they can select from a list of rare irises from the Pickle Barrel collection. Cathy requested that any ideas for recruiting new members be emailed to her. A consideration was made to entice e-members to upgrade to full memberships.

**K. Databank:** Brett Barney reported that Laetitia has placed a Member Databank spreadsheet on the website. Brett questioned at what point should stale information be removed from the databank, and updates be posted, as Doug needs current and reliable data for determining irises for the GG list. Members will continue to be asked to send Brett their lists of historic irises growing in their personal collections.

**L. ID Committee:** Charlie reported that the first draft of the ID checklist has been written. He is recruiting Stan Gray and will be organizing people to work on the lists. He is asking for possible names to be submitted by HIPS members. He hopes for 5 people to identify Tall Bearded, 2 for Siberians (Kevin Vaughan and Anna Mae Miller), Vicki Flanagan (Bee Warburton's granddaughter) for the Warburton SDBs, and other consultants for various classes/hybridizers. He hopes to improve ID protocols for the classes and train new ID members.

For IDs, the committee cannot accept print photos, they must be scanned and have some information with them.

## **VI. New Business**

**A. Archives acquisitions funding:** Cathy suggested that HIPS needs to establish a line item in the budget for archival acquisitions. Doug was able to make scans of a very rare collection of iris slides from Swarthmore College, including lantern slides from the 1920s, some possibly taken by John Wister. These will be invaluable to HIPS and well worth the small costs associated with it - the \$25 per slide fee was waived. Should other rare slides or catalogs be located, it would be good to have some money available to acquire them. Cathy will make a separate posting on the Board of Directors listserve for discussion on this matter.

**B. Nominating Committee:** Judy Keisling reported that Linda Baumgartner has accepted the nomination for Southwest Director, and Denise Stewart has accepted the nomination for Northwest Director.

**C. International Chair:** Darlene Cook has resigned as International Chair. We accept her resignation with regrets and our thanks. Her recommendation is that HIPS revamp the International Chair position and establish an International Committee, with representatives in various countries to act as liaisons for HIPS. This will be a project over the next few months.

**VII. Other** - Cathy reported that HIPS was mentioned in *Garden Design* magazine in an article about irises in the garden landscape. Several historic irises at Sissinghurst Castle in England were featured in photos. *Garden Design* may be interested in an article on irises used in historic landscaping and matching plants to the era of the structure. Charlie requested information on plant markers that can be used with laser printed labels. Linda will send information and photos to him.

**VIII. Adjournment** - Dave motioned for adjournment at 10:20pm EST, seconded by Charlie. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm EST. The Board will meet via teleconference in early May, before the AIS Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bell, Secretary