



American Peony Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 18, 2020 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: *Adriana Feng, Carol Adelman, Cory Tischman, David Maltby, David Michener, Hazel Cook, Kent Tretheway, Kris Jurik, Linette Sorrentino, Mary Muellner, Mike Miller, Nate Bremer, Scott Parker, Piet Wierstra*

Guests in Attendance: None

Absent Members: None

A special meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on June 18, 2020 via teleconference. It began at 6:32 pm CDT and was presided over by Nate Bremer as Interim President, with Mary Muellner as Recording Secretary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on May 21, 2020 was made by Mary Muellner. One correction was made to correct the date of the upcoming meeting from June 11th to today's date. Corrections were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- Discussed the recent resignation of Lorē Sampson and stepping in as interim president
 - Nate was informed Lorē was no longer working with Covington Press as the editor contact for the APS
 - Kim Bremer agreed to be acting editor contact for at least two years
 - Kris Jurik asked if Rob Sampson will still be used for finishing the bulletins
 - Linette has a quote for ~\$800 from someone local
 - Nate Bremer suggested using to the Covington Press layout in the meantime
- Outline the following foundational recommendations to improve the culture of the APS BOD:
 - **Communication**
 - Suggestion for email as preferred method of communication
 - Communicating within two days of receiving an email
 - Discussed when to use "Reply All" or decide appropriate recipients
 - **Completion/Meeting Date Accountability**
 - Stressed the importance of meeting deadlines as a way of respecting other members of the BOD and their time
 - Setting hard dates and keeping the BOD accountable
 - David Michener created an Excel spreadsheet to track said deadlines
 - Addressed the importance of marking calendar's for APS meetings
 - **Life and Work**
 - Stressing the importance of asking for assistance
 - Suggesting the inclusion of non-BOD members into APS working/planning to spread the workload and train for a "succession"
- **Documentation**

- BOD will be storing important documents in the “Administrative Storage” whenever possible.
 - Linette Sorrentino asked who could see the documents in this storage area and the response from Nate Bremer is only BOD members
- Mary Muellner suggested the idea of creating a space for document sharing
 - Nate Bremer will be creating a shared Google Drive for the BOD by July 15th for any other relevant documents that are frequently edited.
- Stressed the importance of having written reports for meetings as they are a great reference too and keep the BOD accountable
- **Take Action**
 - Encouraged the BOD to ask hard questions
 - Encouraged others not to compartmentalize themselves and their tasks, and try to be inclusive with others helping out
 - Discussed avoiding becoming involved in other’s responsibilities unless asked
 - Encouraged not turning down help

Treasurer’s Report – Kris Jurik

- No report (see minutes of June 11, 2020 meeting)
- Kris shared the following snapshot of the APS accounts as of today:
 - U.S. Bank \$12,598.26
 - PayPal \$10,501.06
 - Edward Jones \$83,122.70
- Kris is continuing to work with Embassy Suites (Chicago) for a refund

Correspondence Secretary Report – Hazel Cook

- Hazel expressed she would like to be cc’d when any BOD member responds to anyone

Committees and Special Projects Reports

Membership Report – Linette Sorrentino

- Linette reported there are currently 707 active members since last checking a few days ago.

Convention Report – Linette Sorrentino

- The 2021 Convention Co-Chairs recently met and is planning to generate a rough draft of a convention planning manual by the end of July
- Linette asked BOD members to be involved in various subcommittees for conventions and shared some of the changes for the upcoming convention in 2021.
 - Dates for the convention are June 9th-14th
 - Hotel: Hilton Minneapolis Bloomington
- David Michener suggested there be a continuity of people on the committee
 - Wished that the people who will be hosting future conventions one to two years out will be actively involved on the committee

Auction Report – Mary Muellner

- 105 items were in the auction and generated a total of \$7384.76
- Mary will be contacting donors soon about information to send the items
 - She is still collecting money from the bidders
 - Will get information out by Tuesday June 23rd to the donors

Mentorship Report – Kent Tretheway

- There are currently 10 people requesting mentors
- There are 3 active mentorships at the moment
- Nate will write up something in the Bulletin's Announcement section concerning needs for Hybridizer mentors and mentors in general.

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- Program has had 46 orders so far and getting more
 - This is an increase from last year's sales
- Scott noted orders are being shipped within a week or so of when Kris Jurik receives payment for the seeds
 - He is not going to the post office as frequently due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report

- No Report

Youth Program Committee Report

- No Report

Website Committee Report

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report

- No Report

Awards Report – Carol Adelman & Nate Bremer

- A report was sent out of the BOD prior to this meeting outline the information and procedures of nominating and voting on the Gold Medal Peony for the BOD to read over before electing the Gold Medal Winner.
- Carol stressed the importance that the cultivar nominated should be widely available

Editorial (Bulletin & Directory) Report

- A report was sent to the BOD prior to this meeting but was not discussed due to time running out.

Social Media Report

- No Report

Publications Report – Mike Miller

- Mike noted three recent book orders
- Mike expressed needing more training to run the website for book orders
- Nate Bremer requested a report of total book inventory with the next six months

Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Report – Adriana Feng

- No report

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- A report (see report) regarding nominations, elections, Robert's Rules, and bylaws were sent out prior to this meeting for the BOD to look over which outlined the procedures of nominating in the context of how the APS bylaws and Robert's Rules interact with one another.

- Cory had collected nominations from the BOD weeks prior to this meeting, vetted the candidates, and created profiles on all of the potential candidates and profiles of the current BOD. This information was sent to the BOD prior to today's meeting to read over as the information included a slate of officers.
- Cory announced the slate of officers: *Nate Bremer (President), David Sorrentino (Vice President), Kris Jurik (Treasurer), Cory Tischman (Recording Secretary) and Hazel Cook (Corresponding Secretary)*.
- Carol Adelman and Hazel Cook noted they will both complete their terms on the BOD but will not have their names for the list of directors in the upcoming election on August 1st.

Correspondence

- No new correspondence

Unfinished Business

- Gold Medal Peony Award for 2020 (see report)
 - The BOD voted on the following cultivars over three rounds of voting: *Auten's Pride, Baron Thyssen Bornemisza, Blushing Princess, Brother Chuck, Bridal Shower, Christmas Velvet, Faithful Dream, Gay Paree, Hillary, Illini Rose, Illini Warrior, Iphegenia, Joker, Mary L, Morning Lilac, Nosegay, Pastelegance, Red Glory, Shawnee Chief, Summer Glow, and Waucedah Princess.*
 - The winner was **Hillary** and runner up, **Joker**
- Special Meeting: Annual General Membership Meeting (see report)
 - BOD did not address this item on the agenda due to time constraints
- Bulletin Editorial Board and Procedures (see report)
 - BOD did not address this item on the agenda due to time constraints
 - Bulletin is being printed and will have an insert about the Annual General Membership Meeting on August 1st

New Business

- Accepting the Resignation of Lore Sampson
 - (see 'Motions' section)
- Elect an Interim President Until next Election
 - (see 'Motions' section)
- Elect Officers for next term
 - (see 'Motions' section)

Motions

Motion: Moved by Scott Parker for the APS use Covington Press for the next two bulletins. Seconded by Kris Jurik. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: Moved by Piet Wierstra to fill the election slate for the Board of Directors with all available candidates. David Michener seconded. Discussion was made expressing concern of uneven voting years. No amendments to the motion were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: Moved by Cory Tischman for the BOD to accept the slate of officers listed and will be formally ratified after the membership votes for board of directors at the General Annual Meeting. Seconded by David Michener. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Motion: Moved by Nate Bremer for the BOD to accept the resignation of Lore Sampson as APS President and director. Piet Wierstra seconded. No discussions were made. The motion carried with 11 in favor, zero against, and 2 abstained.

Motion: Moved by David Maltby for the BOD to elect Nate Bremer as Interim President until elections in August. Seconded by Kris Jurik. No discussions were made. The motion carried with unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

David Michener moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:12pm CDT.

Next Meeting: August 1, 2020 3 PM CDT

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman