



American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2021 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

Call to Order / Roll Call

Present Voting Members: Craig Aiken, Nate Bremer, Lois Girton, Kris Jurik, Leena Liljestrand, Mike Miller, Mary Muellner, Scott Parker, Steve Smith, Linette Sorrentino, and Kent Tretheway

Present Non-Voting Member: Hazel Cook

Absent Voting Members: Adriana Feng, David Michener, Brandi Orchard, David Maltby, Cory Tischman, and Piet Wierstra

The American Peony Society (APS) Board of Directors Meeting was held on November 4, 2021 via Zoom. It began at 6:46 pm CDT and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Lois Girton as acting Recording Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Membership and Board of Directors meetings of October 14, 2021 had previously been distributed by Cory Tischman and were not read. Linette Sorrentino made a motion to accept these minutes as distributed. Seconded by Kris Jurik. Motion carried.

Treasurers' Reports

Monthly reports for July, August, September, and October 2021 had previously been distributed to board members. Cash on hand on October 31, 2021: \$61,234.53 and investments with Edward Jones \$101,805.89. Treasurer Kris Jurik reported that taxes on advertising are due to the IRS by November 15, 2021 and will be filed online. Lois Girton made a motion to accept these reports. Seconded by Mike Miller. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

No written reports.

Corresponding Secretary Hazel Cook reported a steady stream of questions about peonies from the public but nothing unusual.

Membership Secretary Linette Sorrentino reported that 540 members will be up for renewal in January and asked that statements be placed on the website and other forms of communication reminding members not to attempt to renew before January 1st. as the online form does not allow early renewals.

President's Report

The President's Report was previously distributed. President Nate Bremer emphasized that no future meetings should be scheduled during September or October.

Unfinished Business

President Nate Bremer went over the "To Do" list. At future meetings, the following will be discussed:

- Donations, sponsorships, grants, peony reference gardens (David Michener and Lois Girton)
- Bright colored hats with APS logos for board members to wear at Michigan convention
- APS business cards and brochures to distribute

New Business

A sum of \$1500 was requested to purchase cut flowers for designers to use for the flower show at the Michigan convention. APS has a commitment of at least 40 designs from local flower arrangers. Scott Parker moved to fund this request. Kris Jurik seconded. Motion carried. Linette will contact commercial growers to arrange for flowers.

A new version of the APS Copyright Policy was previously distributed to board members. A motion to approve this policy document was made by Nate Bremer. Linette Sorrentino seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion

2022 Michigan Convention: The President reminded board members of the need to be present and helping, including until Sunday evening for flower show cleanup. Suggested one or two board members be responsible for recruitment of volunteers. Linette Sorrentino will share her current version of the master list of tasks/times with that person. Mary Muellner will schedule a meeting of the auction committee in December to discuss the convention auction and timing of the fall online auction.

2023 New York Convention: Hotel will be in Syracuse and the flower show will be at the hotel. Likely first weekend of June to correspond with peak bloom at Linwood Gardens and Hamilton College and to avoid alumni weekend at Hamilton College. Date to be confirmed ASAP. Nate Bremer will send out an invitation to board members to join a Zoom meeting with Convention Chair Craig Aiken in December.

APS Mugs: 108 mugs were purchased to be used as thank you gifts for volunteers and to be sold at conventions.

APS Bulletins: Articles are needed for upcoming bulletins. Steve Smith reported some response to his post on the APS Facebook page for suggested topics. Scott Parker suggested an article on the process behind introducing a new peony.

Future BOD Meetings

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom: February 17, August 25, and December 8, 2022

In Person at Michigan Convention: June 2, 2022

Adjournment

Nate Bremer adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm CDT.

Minutes Submitted by: Lois Girton