



American Peony Society Annual Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 15, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. CST

Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: Brandie Orchard, Craig Aiken, Cory Tischman, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kent Tretheway, Linette Sorrentino, Lois Girton, Mary Muellner, Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, Scott Parker, Sheryl Lawson, Steve Smith, Piet Wierstra

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: David Sorrentino

Absent Members: Leena Liljestrand, Lynn Gessling

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on February 15, 2024 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:30pm CST and was presided over by Nate Bremer as President, with Cory Tischman as Recording Secretary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

Cory Tischman submitted the meeting minutes from the BOD meeting on November 9, 2023 and January 1, 2024. The minutes were submitted to be ratified with a motion made by Lois Girton, seconded by Brandie Orchard, which carried unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Nate Bremer

- **See Report**
 - For the 2025 convention, the APS won a WI tourism grant for \$6,205.62

Treasurer's Report – Lynn Gessling

- No Report

Committees and Special Projects Reports

Auction Report – Jill Stevens, Lois Girton, & Mary Muellner

- No Report

Award of Landscape Merit (ALM) Committee Report – Cory Tischman & Jill Stevens

- No Report

Awards Committee Report – Steve Smith

- No Report

Book & Publications Report – Mike Miller

- No Report

Bulletins & Editorial Committee Report - Kim and Nate Bremer

- No Report

Commercial Members Committee Report - Piet Wierstra

- No Report

Convention Steering Committee Report – Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

Exhibition Committee Report - David & Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

International Outreach Program Committee Report - Leena Liljestrand & Nick Maycher

- No Report

Membership Report – Liz Best

- No Report

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

Nomenclature Committee Report - Jordan Kabat

- No Report

Nominations Committee Report – Cory Tischman

- No Report

Reference Garden Committee Report - Lois Girton, Nick Maycher, David Michener, Steve Smith, &

- **See Report** Brandie Orchard

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report - David Michener

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- No Report

Social Media Committee Report - Craig Aiken

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report - Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer

- **See Report**

Correspondence – Sheryl Lawson

- **See Report**

Unfinished Business

- Commercial Vendors Code of Ethics
 - Nate Bremer expressed concerns about how to introduce and enforce the code of ethics. He noted he is hoping to get that into the hands of commercial growers in

the spring. Piet Wierstra suggested notification in the bulletin and newsletters about who signed and didn't sign the code of ethics.

- 2024 Convention Update - David and Linette Sorrentino
 - Linette Sorrentino sent out the rough schedule, adding the times and dates of the seminars will be switched around. She started asking people to help with the convention, and will be making an announcement at the Minnesota Peony Society meeting on March 3rd. David Sorrentino noted there is still work to be done with a lot of the details such as awards and printing that need to be completed.

New Business

- Reference Garden Initiative - Lois Girton, Nick Maycher, David Michener
 - Lois Girton noted they had a member meeting with about 40 members attending. The discussion is around people interested in joining and being a part of the reference garden program. The committee has come up with criteria to be considered a reference garden as well as benefits for being part of the reference garden program.

Discussions

- Seed Distribution Program - Scott Parker
 - Scott Parker noted it is next to impossible to send seeds to European countries due to the need for a seed phytosanitary certificate. Will likely have to increase shipping rates. Will need to notify European members that APS cannot ship to them due to regulations.
- Nate is out of the Country March 1-15th
 - David Sorrentino will be in charge as President in the interim.
- Nominations for Director for 2024-2026 Term - Cory Tischman
 - Leena Liljestrang and Craig Aiken are stepping down as directors. The rest of current Board Directors have completed the paperwork to be nominees for the new term.
 - New nominees for the Board of Directors are: Matt Snyder, Rich Grenier, and Melissa Sullivan. Carol Bradford was nominated but declined.
 - Bernie Miller was nominated as a possible candidate during the meeting and Linette Sorrentino will contact him to see if he's interested.
- Executive Committee Nominations for 2024-2026 Term
 - President: Lois Girton
 - Vice President: Cory Tischman
 - Treasurer: Lynn Gessling
 - Corresponding Secretary: Sheryl Lawson
 - Recording Secretary:
- Social Media Issue - Craig Aiken
 - Craig Aiken noted there are a lot of people requesting to post a lot of non-peony-related posts and spam accounts. He shared that he is stepping down

as an administrator for the Facebook group and will need to find someone else to replace him.

Motions

Motion: I, Nate Bremer, make a motion to approve the Reference Garden to move forward with their plan that is outlined by their report. Motion seconded by: Piet Wierstra. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: I, David Michener, make a motion to approve the APS Commercial Plant Vendor Code of Ethics as written that was distributed for the 2/15/24 meeting. Motion seconded by: Nate Bremer. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Nate Bremer moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:03pm CST.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024 via Zoom at 6:30pm CDT

Minutes Submitted by: Cory Tischman