



American Peony Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. CDT

Call to Order / Roll Call

Voting Members in Attendance: *Brandie Orchard, Cory Tischman, David Michener, Jill Stevens, Kent Tretheway, Lois Girton, Lynn Gessling, Mary Muellner, Matt Snyder, Melissa Sullivan, Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, Rich Grenier, Steve Smith,*

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: *Bernie Miller, Sheryl Lawson*

Absent Members: *Piet Wiersta, Scott Parker*

A regularly scheduled meeting of the American Peony Society (APS) was held on July 18, 2024 via teleconference (Zoom). It began at 6:31pm CDT and was presided over by Lois Girton as President, with Brandie Orchard as Recording Secretary.

Reading & Approval of Minutes

Cory Tischman submitted the meeting minutes from the Annual General Membership & Election Meeting on June 8, 2024 and the BOD Meeting on June 9, 2024. The minutes were submitted to be approved with a motion by Nate Bremer, seconded by Matt Snyder, which was carried unanimously.

Officers' Reports

President's Report – Lois Girton

- **See Report**
 - Introduction and induction of new directors, Rich Grenier and Melissa Sullivan were officially inducted.

Treasurer's Report – Lynn Gessling

- **See Report**
 - All money from Edward Jones has been transferred into a Money Market account with U.S. Bank.
 - Now all accounts are with U.S. bank to make transactions and transfers easier
 - Lois Girton has been added to all accounts along with Nate Bremer, Cory Tischman and Lynn Gessling.
 - We received a nice unsolicited \$1000 donation from a member.
 - **See 'Motions'**
- **See Convention Budget Report**
 - It was suggested that we donate \$2000 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum for hosting APS.
 - **See 'Motions'**

Committees and Special Projects Reports

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

- **See Report**

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

- **See Report**

Awards Committee Report – Steve Smith

- No Report

Book & Publications Report – Mike Miller

- No Report

Bulletins & Editorial Committee Report – Kim Bremer

- No Report

Commercial Members Committee Report - Piet Wierstra

- No Report

Convention Steering Committee Report – Nate Bremer, Cory Tischner, Lois Girton

- No Report

Exhibition Committee Report – David & Linette Sorrentino

- No Report

International Outreach Program Committee Report - Nick Maycher

- No Report

Membership Report – Liz Best and Mary Muellner

- **See Report**

Mentorship Committee Report – Kent Tretheway

- No Report

News Letter Editor Report – Bernie Miller

- **See Report**
 - New Newsletter Editor: Bernie Miller. Please send any items you would like to have included in future newsletters to Bernie at programs@americanpeonysociety.org

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, & Brandie Orchard

- **See Report**
 - The committee asked the BOD for \$7700 to have 20 Reference Garden Bronze Plaques made.
- **See Motions**

Scientific & Horticultural Studies Committee Report - David Michener & Rich Grenier

- No Report

Seed Distribution Program Report – Scott Parker

- No Report
- Seed sale has been closed for the season. Lois reminded us to donate seeds. Seeds can be given to Scott Parker.

Social Media Committee Report – Liz Best & Lynn Gessling

- No Report

Speakers & Programs Committee Report – Nate Bremer & Lois Girton

- No Report

Website Committee Report - Nate Bremer, Nick Maycher, David Sorrentino

- **See Report**

Correspondence – Sheryl Lawson

- **See Report**

Unfinished Business

- Will need a vote to change the by-laws at next year’s annual meeting – Lois Girton
 - Need a wording change with our name and logo to include the word “The” to be consistent across all platforms. “The American Peony Society” vs. “American Peony Society”

New Business

- Proposed Committee Assignments - Lois Girton & Cory Tischman
 - **See Report**
 - Lois stated that we need more people on the auction committee
 - Nate reminded us that any APS member, not in a leadership position, could sit on a committee.

Discussions

- Winter Zoom Seminars: How to move forward with registration – Lois Girton
 - Brainstorming new ways for members to register for Winter Zoom Seminars to reduce the number of no-shows and provide entry to all who are interested.
 - Lois would like to kick-off the season with a free seminar on ‘Peony Basics’
- Suggestion for Convention Fees/Cancellations – Lois Girton
 - **See Report from Lois Girton**
 - Matt Snyder likes the new policy but would like it to be written differently to be clearer.
 - Other directors would like to see it simplified.

- Beaver Dam Convention 2025 - Nate Bremer
 - August 1st Zoom Organizational Meeting to help with convention. All are welcome. Please email Nate if you are interested.
 - Nate is waiting for numbers from venues. This convention will be a mix of public programs and member only programs with only one tour destination at Ovans Peony Farm.
- Philadelphia Convention 2026 – Matt Snyder
 - May 2 – 6, 2026 are the tentative dates.
 - Public Garden visits with a focus on Saunders Tree Peonies. Possible add-on tours at private gardens in the area.
- Oregon Convention 2027 – Steve Smith
 - PNW Peony Society will sponsor
 - Nothing concrete yet but Steve Smith is researching possibilities and hoping to add Washington to the event.
- Fall Auction – Lois Girton
 - Auction dates will be September 19 – 22, 2024
 - Request for donations will be sent in early August.

Motions

Motion: I, Steve Smith, make a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by: Cory Tischman. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: I, Nate Bremer, make a motion to approve an order of 20 Reference Garden plaques from Noble Bronze for \$7700. Motion seconded by: Nick Maycher. There was discussion about whether or not APS would own the rights to the mold. Motion carried unanimously.

Motions: I, David Michener, make a motion to donate \$2000 to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Motion seconded by: Nate Bremer. Discussion: Lynn Gessling will send a check after receiving proper contact information from David Michener. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Lois Girton moved that the meeting be adjourned and this was agreed upon at 8:00pm CST.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2024 at 6:30pm CST via teleconference (Zoom)

Minutes Submitted by: Brandie Orchard

