

Historic Iris Preservation Society

Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 20, 2022

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Scott at 9:02 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom.

II. Roll call by Nina Morris, Secretary.

- A. Present: Wendy Scott, Suzanne Butler, Nina Morris, Judy Keisling, Cathy Egerer, Jessica Kelley, Mike Unser, Randy Smith, Marc Hanes, Lori Vandette, Susan Flow, Gary White, Nancy McDonald, Laetitia Munro, and Tim Vanover.
- B. Absent: Alice Laughlin, Allyson Whalley, Linda Baumgartner, Tammy Skahan and Janet Smith.

III. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Several Committee/Chair updates were received but not marked off the Agenda.

IV. Approval of the previous meeting minutes

Acknowledgement of Approval

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. Written Financial Report for the year 2021 was submitted prior to meeting via email to board.
- B. Verbal report by Judy Kiesling: Yearly Income of \$24,619.56 and Yearly Expenses of \$44,472.84 for a Yearly Loss of -\$19,853.28. Combined with Total Assets at end of 2020, it brings Total Assets as of December 31, 2021, to \$59,554.54.
- C. Major expenses this year were website work and printing three issues of Roots; major sources of income were dues, the rhizome sale and sales of the Mahan book.

VI. President's Report

- A. President Wendy Scott requested annual reports from those who had not sent them in yet.
- B. Wendy reported that Jack Finney is HIPS' new Registered Agent.
- C. She welcomed two new board members: Mike Unser, who has taken over as Northwest Regional Director, and Marc Hanes, who is HIPS' new Member Databank Chair.
- D. Wendy reiterated that HIPS hopes to extend that the annual Rhizome Sale to Canada this year.
- E. She also informed the board she will be unable to attend the annual AIS Convention this year, so she is seeking others who will attend.

VII. Old Business

A. Committee/Chair Updates

a. Lori Vandette reported that membership is dwindling. She suggested that there are many iris groups and we need to get our existence out there to them, possibly by being listed in their newsletters. Our membership brochure has been redone as a postcard with updated prices and a QR code on back, which can also be distributed by individuals to their local iris organizations. Tim Vanover mentioned our Facebook page is touching 6000 people per month, with 4000 people actually interacting, and the possibility of launching a membership drive online. Nancy McDonald suggested a small premium, possibly a free rhizome, for new 3-year memberships. Gary White informed the group that AIS is launching a membership drive in March-May which may help cooperating societies like HIPS. More information will be forthcoming. Cathy Egerer reported our online newsletter has been quite successful and could be forwarded to iris groups and individuals. Tim Vanover told about how his local

- group had done away with membership brochures and replaced them with bookmarks with contact info on them. HIPS' new membership cards are being provided to Display Gardens for people to pick up. Printing prices are low—around \$80 per 2500 cards.
- b. Nancy McDonald with Guardian Gardens asked that GG'ers send in their annual reports on holdings. The Guardian Garden handbook is being updated and sections are being added.
 - c. Nancy also reported that ROOTS is happy to welcome Justin Fortanascio as Assistant Editor and Diane Lynch as a proofreader. Issues will be limited to 36 pages due to costs and March 1 is the deadline for submissions for the Spring issue.
 - d. Alice Laughlin was gone so there was no Breeder Collection Program update.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g. Tim Vanover reported on the Website update. All options are up and working and a Website Administration Manual is in progress. Statistics indicate visitors go mostly to the gallery.
 - h. Nancy McDonald reported that the Policies and Procedures Committee had lost several members and a few more people are needed. Volunteers may contact her.
 - i. Susan Flow of the HIPS Shop reported that the shop is now offering downloadable video products and that a minimum shipping charge had been established. She is tracking actual costs to see how close it is to covering them.

VIII. New Business / Action Items

- A.** 2022 Board Elections: Two board positions will be open in 2022--Southwest Regional Director and Northwest Regional Director. A nominating committee is needed.
- B.** Board Liability Insurance: Cathy reported that several quotes for insurance to protect the personal assets of board officers and members from legal actions had been received and that she was waiting on several others. When received, the quotes will be sent to the board for a decision.
- C.** Google Storage: Tim and Cathy reported that we currently have 2 GB of Google Data Storage but we will eventually run out of room. We can upgrade to 1-2 terabytes of storage for \$99 a year and they recommended that the upgrade be put into the 2022 budget. Lori Vandette made the motion to add a budget item to purchase Google Storage for \$99 and authorize the purchase when necessary. The motion was seconded by Suzanne Butler and all eight board members present voted in favor of the motion.
- D. A.** Research Curator Position Dismissal: Wendy Scott reported on unresolved conflicts with HIPS Research Curator Catherine Adams in France, following two written reminders about proper tone of communication. Cathy Egerer made a motion to remove Catherine Adams as Research Curator, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Mike Unser and President Scott asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. The motion carried with eight votes in favor and none opposed.
- E.** Discussion/Approval of 2022 Budget: Judy Keisling presented the proposed budget and gathered feedback about necessary changes to the items. She will submit a revised budget to the board for review/approval next week.

IX. Other

None

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Cathy to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Randy Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m. EDT

Respectfully Submitted by Nina Morris, Secretary