World Orchid Conference Trust

Location: Zoom Video Conference
Date/Time: October 25, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US)

Inclusion: Trustees, Fellows, Advisors

Minutes

Present: Alex Chang, Munekazu Ejiri, Alison Gallaway, George Hatfield (President-Elect), Clare Hermans (Secretary), Johan Hermans, Dennis Kao, William Riley (President), John Varigos (Treasurer), Yin-Tung Wang

Guests: Ahby Tseng (part), Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu (TOGA)

Absent: Chen-Chung Chen, David Ridgeway, Kiat Tan

Meeting: Called to order at 8.00 AM dEST (US)

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of September 27, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.

2. Treasurer’s Report.
   a. The Fidelity October statement was reviewed, and noted that interest had been added to the account.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. Susanna presented a progress report. (See separate pdf.). The following was mentioned:
      a. 118 international judges and 86 judges from Taiwan have applied, of which 154 have been reviewed and approved.
      b. It was agreed to move all the Judging Applications in the Google Drive folder called ‘Accepted’ to ‘Ribbon & Medal’ and to delete the former.
      c. George commented that he had been approached by people wanting to observe judging. It was agreed George would forward their details to Niggy and Ahby, and they would then liaise with Clare as required. Niggy confirmed that 2 people had already been accepted as observers.
      d. Booth and display reservations are not full yet; TOGA plans to expand invitations later. George commented that plant sales were a major attraction for the overseas registrants.
      e. A total of 105 speakers have submitted and have abstracts accepted.
      f. John requested the contact details of the poster submitter from Australia so they can be considered for an Australian grant.
g. Johan and John queried the need for a submission deadline of 29 December 2023 for the Speaker’s PowerPoints. Yin-Tung confirmed that he was to assist the translators and that there would be a 10-day Chinese New Year Holiday just before the opening of the WOC, which would impact work schedules.

h. A total of 479 registrants have been processed, including 169 paid and 72 free registrations. George offered to help with any American’s registration which were incomplete.

i. 15 have signed up for the 29 Feb. KBCC tour.

j. The frequency of the shuttle buses from hotels to the ICC has not been decided yet.

2. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee. Clare reported that after the agreement at the meeting for the amendment to Class A12 and A13, the Judging Handbook was now finalised.

3. Publicity for WOC.
   a. Will thanked the Hermans for their recent articles which had appeared in American, British, French, and German orchid magazines.
   b. Johan stated that the Australian Orchid Review, the Orchid Review and OSSEA articles were still to appear and that Mango Ice had proved very popular with the Editors. He hoped it would be available at the WOC.
   c. Munekazu reported that an article in Japanese had just been published.

4. WOC Trust Medal Schedule.
   a. George reported that some nominations had already been received.
   b. It was agreed that George, Johan and Munekazu would review the nominations and agree on a short list before the vote.
   c. Nominations would be encouraged from outside the Board.
   d. It was agreed that the closing date for submissions was 1 December and that voting by the Trustees was at the December 27 meeting.

5. Social Media. George reported that he had a lot of e-mail enquiries because of the recent publicity.

6. Issues surrounding the booking and payment for tours.
   a. John reported that there had been problems booking the KBCC tour for 7 Australians. Credit card details were not accepted, and the time-out message said, ‘The order would be cancelled if no payment was made.’
   b. Feedback from the tour operator was that a minimum number of participants was required before the tour would go ahead and payment accepted.
   c. It was agreed that a note would be added to the website to this effect and to provide a TOGA contact e-mail in case there were problems.

Current Activity Pending Approval:
1. Activities Schedule During a WOC. The circulated document will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

Current Activity Pending Completion
None

Miscellaneous Items
1. It was unanimously agreed to sponsor a WOC Trust Trophy for the 2024 Tokyo Show and that Munekazu would present it. Munekazu agreed to organise the trophy, and the budget agreed was, as before, a maximum of $250.
2. Will reported he was working on the invitation letter for the members of the Site Selection Committee and a letter of appreciation for Poster submitters.
3. George suggested that Board members support potential WOC bidders by providing advice.
4. John reported that a Melbourne Convention Centre was keen to host a WOC and that their lead contact wanted further information about the impact of the Australian import rules on a WOC. Given that Australia would be a suitable WOC location, it was agreed that John and George would pursue matters further, including contact between her and the previous Perth bidding team. Then, if appropriate, the aim would be to get local orchid people involved.

Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)
   1. Reports from Committees
      a. Scientific & Education
      b. Conservation
      c. Horticulture
   No reports were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM dEST (US) as no other business existed.

Next Meeting
Date/Time: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 6:00 PM EST (US).

Clare Hermans