World Orchid Conference Trust

Location: Zoom Video Conference
Date/Time: November 29, 2023, at 6.00 PM EST (US)

Inclusion: Trustees, Fellows, Advisors

Minutes

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

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

Absent: Munekazu Ejiri, Kiat Tan

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

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of October 25, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.
   b. Will confirmed that Thailand and Malaysia were still interested in bidding. In addition, the Orchid Society of India was considering hosting a bid in Mumbai.
2. Treasurer’s Report.
   a. The Fidelity November 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. The Board members are invited to attend the TIOS Opening Ceremony at 2 pm on February 23rd at TOTP.
      b. There are 312 foreign registrants, 111 with hotel registration forms, of which 101 have rooms reserved. Peggy stated that TOGA sends confirmation to the registrant once the hotel has confirmed.
      c. There are 656 Registrants, but approximately 170 have not completed the process. There are 222 judges.
      d. Eleven individuals have signed up for the 29 Feb. KBCC tour. Two nursery tours were recently added to the website. It was suggested that the website show the number of spaces still available on tours to encourage take-up.
      e. The vendor list will be uploaded to the website in a couple of weeks.
      f. Peggy confirmed that Board members will be staying at the Queena Plaza.
      g. Ahby requested that Board members send their travel schedules to Peggy.
2. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee.
   a. Clare reported that all the international judges were now assigned to the ribbon or ribbon and medal groups, and allocation to the judging teams had started.
b. It was agreed to include classes for displays with ribbon and medal judging, and a new display judging team will be made.

c. The design for the medals and ribbons was reviewed, and corrections were made.

d. The Board members agreed to check the spelling of the class trophies.

3. Publicity for WOC.
   a. The Hermans article in The Orchid Review had now appeared.
   b. TOGA had recently attended commercial shows in Taiwan and Japan to promote the WOC.

4. WOC Trust Medal Schedule.
   a. George thanked people for sending nominations and Johan for his work on preparing the shortlist. He commented that those nominated were an excellent and diverse group.
   b. It was agreed that George would circulate the Awards Committee recommendations for the 3 WOCT Medals to the Trustees. **All information was strictly confidential.**
   c. It was agreed that the Trustees would meet **Thursday, 7th December, at 6:00 PM EST (US)** to discuss the recommendations and vote. Dennis and Yin-Tung agreed to act as translators.
   d. George advised that the Trust should recognise some other people as well. This will also be discussed on 7th December.
   e. It was agreed George would discuss with the incoming President-Elect at the Taiwan WOC about carrying over the unsuccessful nominations to the next WOC.

5. Social Media. George reported that WOC speakers were sharing photos on Facebook and creating a lot of interest in the WOC.

**Current Activity Pending Approval:**

1. Activities Schedule During a WOC: The document will be recirculated, discussed, and voted on at the next meeting.

**Current Activity Pending Completion**

None

**Miscellaneous Items**

1. Yin-Tung reported that the Trustees will act as Conference Moderators, and this would be on the first day. Will stated that he would send the Trustees’ schedule to Yin-Tung so he could add this information.

2. Alex reported that he is a Board member of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), which will meet at the WOC. Dennis stated the APOC Board would also meet at the WOC, and Abby confirmed there were a lot of associations meeting at the WOC. It was agreed these need advertising.

3. Yin-Tung stated that he had agreed with Peggy to provide a WOCT Certificate of Recognition for students participating in the WOC.

**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 7.34 PM EST (US) as no other business existed.**

**Next Meeting**

Date/Time: **Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM EST (US).**

Clare Hermans