World Orchid Conference Trust

Location: Zoom Video Conference
Date/Time: December 27, 2023, at 6.00 PM EST (US)
Inclusion: Trustees, Fellows, Advisors

Minutes

Present: Alex Chang, Chen-Chung Chen, 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: Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu, Lynn Wei (TOGA). Joy Chang, Jun Tsai, Jerry Wang (Elite Professional Conference Organizer)

Absent: David Ridgeway, Kiat Tan, Ahby Tseng

Meeting: Called to order at 6.00 PM EST (US)

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of November 29, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.
   b. Lynn Wei was welcomed to the meeting. Following Peggy’s resignation, she will assume the TOGA’s Administrative Assistant role.
   c. Will confirmed that he would send the annual report and letter to the Sponsors and Associates in January.
   d. Will stated that he was working on the invitation letters for the Site Selection and Resolution Committee.
   e. Will informed the Board that Alison and he were working on some matters with the attorney and would update the Board later.
   f. Will stated that although he has received three letters of intent to bid for a WOC, he has yet to receive any bids. The submission deadline is 15th January.
2. Treasurer’s Report
   a. The Fidelity December statement was reviewed and noted that $150 was due to be reimbursed to Munekazu for the 2024 Tokyo Trophy.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. Lynn presented a progress report. (See separate pdf.). The following was mentioned:
      a. There are 757 Registrants, but approximately 200 still need to complete the process. It was agreed that the Board would try to assist TOGA with these individuals.
      b. Half the Registrants still need to fill out a hotel reservation form, but a reminder has been sent.
c. Will agreed to provide the times of the WOCT related meetings on 24th & 26th February. It was confirmed that two rooms would be required for the Site Selection meeting.
d. The Conference Bag and ID will be available to collect from ICC from 19th Feb., but not the Judge’s pass. Board members can visit ICC on 22nd Feb.
e. The Hotel-Show shuttle buses will start on 19th Feb. There will be three routes, and the journey will take about an hour. Until 24th Feb, there will be one arrival and return bus a day, then they will be 2-hourly both ways.
f. Conference Registration closes on 15th January.
g. Yin-Tung stated that the four keynote speakers would be asked to provide a short promotional video for the WOC website and Facebook.
h. Yin-Tung confirmed that the posters and student oral presentations will be judged at the show, and the abstracts and judging criteria will be sent to the judges in advance.

2. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee.
   a. Clare reported that the judges were now allocated to judging teams.
   b. It was agreed that the four Observers would be asked just to observe.
3. Publicity for WOC.
   a. Lynn and Susanna may provide some information for posting.
4. Social Media.
   a. George reported that WOC speakers were continuing to share photos on Facebook. Information to be posted should be sent to Henk Venter.

Current Activity Pending Approval:
1. Activities Schedule During a WOC: The document was voted on unanimously and accepted.

Current Activity Pending Completion
None

Miscellaneous Items
1. Yin-Tung reported that following the success of the AOS Educational Books at a school in the San Francisco area, he continued to liaise with TOGA to see if the books could be used at the WOC.
2. It was agreed that the three WOC Trust medals would have the recipients’ names, WOC 2024 and Tainan, engraved on them. It was unanimously voted that they would be presented at the Conference Opening Ceremony. The recipients’ names remain confidential until the presentation. George agreed to explore the possibility of attaching a ribbon or lanyard to the medal and report back. George requested that he be sent photos of the recipients so a PowerPoint can be created. The thank-you medal(s) will not be engraved and will be presented at the Closing Ceremony.

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 7.13 PM EST (US) as no other business existed.

Next Meeting
Date/Time: Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 6:00 PM EST (US).

Clare Hermans