World Orchid Conference Trust

Location: Zoom Video Conference
Date/Time: July 26, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US)

Inclusion: Trustees, Fellows, Advisors

Minutes

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

Guests: Ahby Tseng, Winnie Huang, Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu, Peggy Su (TOGA), and Alex Chang (part).

Absent: Dennis Kao, Kiat Tan

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

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of June 21, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.
   b. Will reported that he and Clare had a Teams meeting with Dr. Amy Hinsley and Prof. Mike Fay, Co-Chairs of the Orchid Specialist Group, part of the IUCN Species Survival Commission to discuss the OSG becoming a WOCT Sponsor or Associate. They have since confirmed that, in principle, OSG is in favour of joining, but before they finalize the details, they need to get approval from the Chair of the Species Survival Commission.
   c. Regarding bids for future WOCs: Will reported that he had yet to hear any more from Singapore, but he was due to have a Zoom meeting with the groups from Thailand. Clare agreed to contact the Dresden team to get an update.
   d. Will reported he had yet to hear from Lourens Grobler about the South African Orchid Council becoming an Associate of the WOCT.

2. Treasurer’s Report.
   a. John stated that interest of $93 had been added to the account, which now stands at just over $24,000, and his report was accepted.
   b. Will stated that he had paid the $63 annual registration to the state of Florida for 501(c)3 organizations.
   c. Will planned to explore with Fidelity the creation of sub-accounts for any money raised. These would be added to the budget spreadsheet or accountancy package.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. Peggy presented a progress report. (See separate pdf.)
b. It was agreed that the Board, via Will, would provide an outline for the Closing Ceremony for TOGA.

c. It was agreed Will would provide the room requirements and timing for the WOCT and Site Selection meetings for TOGA.

d. It was agreed that the Board would publicize the WOC tours once TOGA provided information about them. TOGA confirmed that a day trip to KBCC was planned.

e. The Board requested TOGA to confirm the arrival and departure dates required for the Trustees and Board members as soon as possible.

f. TOGA confirmed the 31st October closing dates for both the judging application and sales booths could be extended if the respective totals of 200 judges and 80 booths still needed to be met.

g. Martin Motes has also been appointed to the Scientific Committee for the conference.

h. The Queena Plaza Hotel would be for VIPs and therefore unavailable to book online at the reduced room rate.

i. Judging: the planned number of judges in a team was 10-20, which was felt to be high. So far, 17 out of 100 places for local judges have been filled. Conflict of Interest was raised as a concern, and the judging organizers were encouraged to note this. It was agreed that the judge’s name badges should state their status, Captain, Judge, Clerk, etc.

j. Meeting Rooms: members were asked to inform Yin-Tung if a meeting room for specialist groups was required; OHRAG had already done so.

k. Conference: Yin-Tung reported that he and Alex had received 70 abstracts close to the closing date of 15th July. The total required for the event was 105, and as this had been exceeded, they were considering allowing only one submission per person and offering posters instead to late submitters. In addition, he reported that Dr. Peter Faletra would be submitting two posters and bringing a group of students from an academy in New Hampshire. George agreed to contact Alan Koch about his invitation to speak.

l. It was agreed that TOGA would add that ‘no jungle collected plants are to be brought for sale at the WOC’ on the website. TOGA confirmed that Taiwan follows CITES requirements.

2. WOC Trust Keynote Speaker

   a. It was unanimously agreed to invite Professor Chia-Wei Li, CEO of KBCC, to be the WOC Trust Sponsored Speaker. Yin-Tung confirmed that Jim Cootes had been invited as a TOGA keynote speaker, and John agreed to confirm this with Jim. It was agreed that if TOGA had funding to sponsor the WOCT keynote speaker, it would be very acceptable to the Board.

3. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee.

   a. Clare reported that the Committee had worked on a second draft of the Judging Handbook and a first draft of the Schedule of Classes, which had been sent to Niggy.

   b. Clare reported that the Committee had been validating the overseas judges’ applications since the last meeting. The Committee noted a small group of applicants from countries without judging organisations or having limited judging experience. The Committee proposed a new category for overseas judges, ‘Associate Judges’, for these individuals rather than reject their applications. Associates would be able to participate in the discussions but would not have a vote. Niggy agreed to discuss the suggestion with the TOGA judging organizers and report back.

4. Publicity for WOC
a. Johan informed the meeting that an article on KBCC would appear in the October issue of Orchids magazine. He requested that TOGA submit a list of new events, e.g., tours to KBCC, dinners, etc., to him within two weeks to update the text.

5. Social Media
   a. George reported that content was required for Facebook. Instagram would be considered later.
   b. George agreed to circulate Henk’s e-mail address to the Board.
   c. George requested a named contact at TOGA to supply information for social media to Henk and himself.

Current Activity Pending Approval:
None

Current Activity Pending Completion
None

Miscellaneous Items
1. Conflict of Interest Forms: Clare reported that she had now received Yin-Tung’s.
2. Yin-Tung reported receiving an AOS Educational Grant for a Mandarin school in the San Francisco area.
3. Yin-Tung reported that TOGA had not progressed with an application for an AOS Educational Grant for the WOC, but the WOC plans had already included kids’ activities.

Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)
1. Future of Proceedings Hardcopy vs. Online Open Source, Copyright issues, etc.  
   a. Yin-Tung reported that following further discussion with the sponsor, permission was required for a pdf of the proceedings to be available after one year on the TOGA and WOC Trust websites.
2. Reports from Committees
   a. Scientific & Education  
   b. Conservation  
   c. Horticulture
No reports were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9.23 AM dEST (US) as no other business existed.

Next Meeting
Date/Time: Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US).

Clare Hermans