World Orchid Conference Trust

Location: Zoom Video Conference
Date/Time: August 23, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US)

Inclusion: Trustees, Fellows, Advisors

Minutes

Present: Chen-Chung Chen, Munekazu Ejiri, 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, Winnie Huang, Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu, Peggy Su (TOGA), and Alex Chang.

Absent: Kiat Tan

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

Standing Reports:

1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of July 26, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.
   b. Will reported that with the assistance of Clare and Johan, he had drafted an Activities Schedule During a World Orchid Conference for members of the Board. He will circulate it for comment and approval at the next Board meeting.
   c. In addition, Will stated that he will circulate a timeline for the next WOC.
   d. Will informed TOGA that equipment such as a laptop, projector and access to an onsite printer would be needed for the Site Selection and Resolutions Committee meetings.

2. Treasurer’s Report.
   a. John stated that George had donated $150 in lieu of a speaker’s fee.

Current Active Discussion:

1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. Susanna presented a progress report. (See separate pdf.)
   b. TOGA staged a display at last week’s APOC in Singapore, which gained second place and promoted the WOC and TIOS. The Mayor of Tainan also attended to help promote the shows.
   c. The time of the Opening Ceremony on 24th February has been changed to 10 AM.
   d. The design for the adverts and logo has been completed, and a promotional video has been made. TOGA agreed to send the video to George for the WOCT Facebook page.
   e. The entrance fee for each show has been set at NT$250.
   f. Professor Chia-Wei Li, CEO of KBCC, has agreed to be the WOC Trust Sponsored Keynote Speaker, and TOGA has agreed to sponsor him.
   g. A Keynote speaker will start each morning and afternoon session.
h. Tours: Progress has been made on finalizing plans for the tours. The city day-tour will be on alternate days. The tours to A Li Shan, orchid nurseries, and KBCC will start 29th Feb. after the WOC. The two tours to KBCC will be on 29th Feb. and 1st March, with a maximum of 30.

i. TOGA confirmed that hotel rooms will be released on the WOC website at the end of this month or early next. Will, George and John stated that they already had enquiries from groups wanting to book rooms.

j. Show: Clare requested that the sign in English for the CITES booth be larger than the Chinese one so it will help overseas people.

k. George requested that information about Taiwanese travel agencies used to dealing with overseas visitors, for example, those used by TOGA, was available on the WOC website.

l. George requested that information about the procedure for bringing cut-flowers from overseas for exhibition and judging should be available on the website.

m. Conference: Clare commented that all the Keynote speakers were male and low on diversity. Alex and Yin-Tung acknowledged it was a problem. Clare agreed to provide some suggestions to redress the balance.

n. List of Registrants: Will requested the list of registrants once registration is closed to enable appointment to the Site Selection and Resolutions Committees.

2. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee.
   a. Clare reported that the Committee needed to finalize the wording for two classes for the Schedule. These were agreed at the meeting and then sent to Niggy.
   b. Clare reported that the proposed new category for overseas judges, ‘Associate Judges,’ still needed approval from the judging organizers. Dennis agreed to help facilitate a decision. Once a decision was made, the next version of the Judging Handbook would be returned to Niggy.

3. Publicity for WOC
   a. Johan and Clare agreed that TOGA can use their AOS article for WOC promotion.
   b. An article by Johan and Clare will appear in the magazine of the German Orchid Society. Board members had been circulated a copy.
   c. Dennis reported that he will be attending a show in New Zealand in September where he will promote the WOC.

4. Programme for Closing Ceremony
   a. Will confirmed that it will be brief, and about 50% of the time will be for promoting the next WOC. Other items to be covered include announcing the provisional host for the WOC after next, the report from the Resolutions Committee, presentation of OSSEA medals and handover to the incoming WOCT President. The full list will be in the Activities Schedule.

5. Social Media
   a. George reported that he was setting up a Facebook page for WOCT donations. In addition, he was exploring other ways, such as crowdfunding platforms, e.g., GoFundMe, to obtain funds for future endowments for projects in education and conservation. However, he commented that focused fund raising was more successful, so this was a long-term project.

Current Activity Pending Approval:
None
**Current Activity Pending Completion**
None

**Miscellaneous Items**
1. Clare reported that she had heard from the Dresden team that the Mayor of Dresden was planning to come for the Site Selection meeting. She will inform them of the date and has offered to assist them with their bid.
2. Clare reported she would add the schedule for awarding the WOC Trust Medal to the next meeting’s Agenda.
3. The following WOCT meeting dates were agreed upon: Wednesday, **25 October at 8.00 AM EST** US. The following to be at **6.00 PM EST US**: Wednesday **29 November**; Wednesday **27 December**; Wednesday **24 January** & Wednesday **14 February**

**Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)**
1. Reports from Committees
   a. Scientific & Education YW
   b. Conservation JV
   c. Horticulture DK

No reports were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 AM EST (US) as no other business existed.

**Next Meeting**
Date/Time: **Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 8.00 AM EST (US)**.

Clare Hermans