

Houston Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

I. Call to Order

The President, Hurley Johnson, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Hurley asked that we all welcome the new members to the Board: Dean Laumen, Nandita D'Souza, Vern Maddox, Clyde Holt and Ron Ahles.

II. Roll Call

Present: Hurley Johnson, Scott Barboza, Dean Laumen, Eldon Branham, Anthony Cutola, Nandita D'Souza, Vern Maddox, Clyde Holt, Brian Gurrola, Ron Ahles, Alan Raymond and Barbara Adams. Also present were Pete Parker, Terry Dubois, Donald Green, Ray Gonzalez, Quyen Tong, and Keith McNay. A quorum was present.

III. Read and Approve Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the meeting of December 3 were read and approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Anthony Cutola presented the Treasurer's Report:

Expenses:

Reimburse: Donald Green for Club Christmas dinner	\$ 44.90
Hurley Johnson for Club Christmas dinner	39.99
Hurley Johnson for stamps and newsletter supplies	49.00
Brian Gurrola for Fall show artist dinner	105.23
Scott Barboza for Fall Show artist Boon's hotel expense	<u>104.13</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 343.25

Deposits:

Fall Show Pedro workshop fee	\$ 45.00
Membership payments (22)	<u>525.00</u>
Total Deposits	\$ 570.00

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor. Anthony reported that the check to the City of Houston for sales taxes still has not cleared.

Anthony inquired as to whether he should pay the storage facility bill for January in that we intend to find cheaper rates since they've gone up substantially on their monthly fee. All members agreed that he should pay the bill.

V. Expenditures

Expenses needing to be paid include two invoices from the Hermann Park Conservancy for January and February meeting room expense - \$45.00 x 2 or \$90.00 and Barbara Adams for refreshments - \$53.36. A motion was made to pay these expenses. All members voted in favor and the motion passed.

VI. Unfinished Business

The audit of the Club books has not yet occurred. The committee needs to meet and review the books.

Eldon Branham reported that the Pay Pal account has been set up. All that is needed are signature cards from Anthony and Hurley. Eldon Branham is also set up on the account. Quyen Tong said that he would get the account set up on the website.

Hurley asked if the Board members approved of the Hermann Park meeting site. All members agreed that the space was acceptable. A motion was made that we continue meeting here for the rest of the year. The motion was seconded and all voted in favor. A member asked if we would get a discount if we paid the next 10 months in advance. Hurley said he would check with Linda Black.

VII. LSBF Activities

Pete Parker reported that the LSBF members will be meeting at Hurley's conference room this month. He mentioned that the first person scheduled for the artists' tour is Owen Reich. They have scheduled our club for Friday and Saturday of the July 4th weekend since we specifically asked for a weekend. All members agreed that this was not acceptable. Pete will ask them to reschedule to another date.

Pete also mentioned that they are still working on the Texas Artists program which involves members presenting demonstrations at different clubs to promote local talent. LSBF will reimburse \$100.00 to each club for the first demonstration. Pete said that scheduling people for this has been difficult. Some members want travel expenses paid and others refuse to travel altogether.

The LSBF members are also working on scheduling a 1 and 1/2 day seminar this fall which will preclude any state convention this year. Howard Smith is trying to find an appropriate location that will be either free or fairly inexpensive. Space is needed to accommodate 100 people approximately with a separate room or space for vendors. Mercer Arboretum is a potential location as well as the Memorial Arboretum.

VIII. New Business

Hurley Johnson asked for members' thoughts on the possibility of paying members for conducting demonstrations at the monthly meetings. This subject was brought up at the last meeting and tabled at that time for further consideration. There was quite a bit of discussion concerning this matter that followed. It was decided that the Club policy would be that we pay any expenses incurred by members in preparation for demonstrations but we would not pay for the labor itself. A motion was made to make this decision official. The motion was seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Hurley mentioned that Quyen Tong has volunteered to be our current web designer/updater. Making this a Board member position was discussed in the September 2014 meeting.

Brian Gurrola said that he'd booked a 15 passenger van for the February 21st club dig. On that date he will drive to MBP Bonsai Studio in Pflugerville, Texas for the dig for Trident maples. He will provide a trailer to bring the trees back. MBP charges \$25.00 per caliper inch diameter measured at the widest section of trunk. Members will meet at 6161 Washington Avenue and parking will be available inside a locked fence.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting were taken by Barbara Adams.