

# Houston Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2019

## I. Call to Order

The President, Pete Parker, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

## II. Roll Call

Members present were Pete Parker, Eldon Branham, Gale Childers, Dr. Hoe Chuah, Soon Cheah, Ken Cousino, Hurley Johnson, Vern Maddox, and Ryan Vollert.

## III. Read and Approve Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting were presented by Pete Parker. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Hurley Johnson. The motion was seconded by Gale Childers and the motion passed.

## IV. Treasurer's Report

Eldon presented the Treasurer's report for March and April. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Hurley Johnson. The motion was seconded by Gale Childers and the motion passed.

## V. Expenditures

Sergio Cuan's travel expenses were submitted for reimbursement and Ken Cousino submitted expenses for refreshments for the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. A motion was made to reimburse the expenses by Hurley Johnson. The motion was seconded by Gale Childers and the motion passed.

## VI. Unfinished Business

- Hurley Johnson confirmed Timeless Tress will host the May 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday Study Group from 9:00AM – 12 Noon.
- **2019 Convention:**
  - **Commemorative Clothing** – Hurley Johnson explained that the commemorative t-shirts would be slightly more expensive than initially anticipated but comfortably under budget. Commemorative t-shirts should be ready by May 11<sup>th</sup> based on current timing.
  - **Preserving and Cataloguing of Files** – Pete Parker will meet with the San Antonio Bonsai Society (“SABS”) and provide them with documentation to assist with the 2020 Lone Star Bonsai Federation (“LSBF”) Convention. Pete advised the Board that Ken Cousino and Scott Barboza have been preserving various convention related files and Dr. Hoe Chuah said he will save all of his convention related files to a physical disk.
  - **Imperial Tables** – Dr. Hoe Chuah noted that the imperial tables used at the 2019 Convention are currently being held in storage but the storage unit is near maximum capacity. The Board discussed ways to free-up

space in the storage unit (removing the legs of the imperial tables, seeing if SABS would want to use them for the 2020 LSBF Convention, etc.).

- **Book** – Dr. Hoe Chuah indicated the book is about to be ready to be sent to proof readers (three members have volunteered) and the target date for the first proof of the book is May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Lookback Reports** – Pete indicated that the goal is to have all of the Lookback Reports by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Converting Convention Visitors to HBS Members** – Gale Childers was able to collect the name and email of everyone who registered on Eventbrite or at the registration desk during the 2019 Convention (collected around 200 emails from visitors). Gale Childers suggested using Eventbrite going forward for all of the Club’s events (monthly meetings, Saturday Study Groups, etc.) since free events are free to host on Eventbrite.

The Board discussed three promotional ideas to generate new members:

- Scott Barboza suggested the Club run a limited promotion for new members where new members receive a \$30.00 rebate for a bonsai classes.
- Dr. Hoe Chuah suggested providing new members with a small juniper at monthly meetings.
- Vern Maddox suggested the Club have a combination of door prizes and/or raffles at every monthly meeting. Vern volunteered to be in charge of coordinating door prizes and soliciting future door prize items from members.
- **Joshua Roth Trees** – Two of the trees from the Joshua Roth competition were left at the 2019 Convention. The Board decided to give them away as door prizes at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## VII. Routine Business

- Ken Cousino said he is getting a lot of phone calls regarding interest in the Houston Bonsai Society (“HBS”).
- The Board discussed ways to clarify the start/end time for future conventions. There was reported confusion among some of the general public regarding when the 2019 Convention opened and closed. Ken Cousino and Dr. Hoe Chuah suggested extending hours on Sunday in the future.

## VIII. LSBF Activities

- 2020 LSBF Convention in San Antonio will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The LSBF Board voted to join the North American Bonsai Federation (“NABF”). Pete is now a Director with NABF.

## IX. New Business

- **Mentoring Program** – Board discussed Pete’s proposal for a formal club Mentoring Program. Pete provided a draft of the Mentor Program Proposal and a Mentor/Mentee Questionnaire. Goal is to have senior members who have an interest in being a mentor fill out the questionnaire and then the questionnaire will be used to create a file listing potential mentors for interested mentee’s to review. The Board, or a subset, will then finalize matching mentors with mentees. Pete said he is willing to head the program.

Additionally, Gale suggested making the Mentor/Mentee Questionnaire form a fillable PDF and for the document to be put on the HBS website.

**X. Adjournment**

Gale Childers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Hurley Johnson and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.