

# Houston Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes

July 6, 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, Anthony Cutola, Clyde Holt, Ray Gonzalez, Vern Maddox, and Ryan Vollert.

## III. Read and Approve Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting were presented by Pete Parker. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Anthony Cutola. The motion was seconded by Gale Childers and the motion passed.

## IV. Treasurer's Report

Eldon Branham presented the Treasurer's report for June. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Gale Childers. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hoe Chuah and the motion passed.

## V. Expenditures

Ken Cousino (refreshments for the July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting) and Anthony Cutola (drinks for the BBQ event) submitted expenses for reimbursement. Additionally, the Board recognized expenses made by Hurley Johnson for the BBQ event for reimbursement (Hurley Johnson unable to submit expenses for reimbursement due to picking up food for the BBQ event during the Board meeting). A motion was made to reimburse the expenses by Ray Gonzalez. The motion was seconded by Gale Childers and the motion passed.

## VI. Unfinished Business

a. Clyde Holt confirmed Maas Nursery will host the July 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday Study Group from 9:00AM – 12 Noon.

b. 2019 Convention:

- **What is needed to close the books** – Gale Childers indicated work is nearly done to close the books.
- **Book** – Dr. Hoe Chuah received the first run of the book and will distribute copies to members at the meeting.

**eBook Pricing** – Board discussed two options for offering an eBook version of the convention book for sale on the website: listing on Amazon.com through Kindle or on the website. Challenges discussed with selling an eBook included the inability to prevent people from sharing a PDF copy and quality concerns with images in the Kindle format. Board decided to postpone the idea of offering the book as an eBook and to discuss further at a later board meeting.

**Ordering Additional Hard Copies** – The Board extensively discussed the merits of ordering additional hard copies of the book for selling at Houston Bonsai Society (“HBS”) events, the HBS website, and on the American Bonsai Society website (“ABS”). Ken Cousino stated that he thinks there would be sizeable demand for the book based on the demand for general bonsai books at Quality Feed and Garden and that HBS could sell the books at monthly meetings, shows, and conventions. Multiple concerns regarding placing a large order of books were raised, including large upfront costs (risk of how long it would take to recoup said costs), the need to store the books in a satisfactory environment (storage unit rented by HBS is climate controlled but gets very hot), and need for someone to transport the books to events. Dr. Hoe Chuah stated that the minimum purchase amount to receive a discount on printing costs was 20 copies and the next discount was at 100 copies. The Board agreed to order an additional 20 copies to test demand. Dr. Hoe Chuah said he would ask members at the meeting for pre-orders.

- c. **Mentoring Program** – The Mentoring Program currently has 13 mentees and eight mentors. There is room for three more mentees. Pete Parker and Vern Maddox, both mentors, gave updates on their respective experiences in the program so far.

## VII. **LSBF Activities**

## IX. **New Business**

- a. **Fall Show** – Dr. Hoe Chuah is targeting having the Fall Show on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at Memorial City Mall and will reach out to mall management in July to check availability. The Board also discussed ideas to enhance the Fall Show this year such as having a demonstration and having a table showcasing the progression of a bonsai (seedling to a finished tree).
- b. **New PA/Wireless Mic System** – Ray Gonzales suggested HBS invest in a new PA/wireless mic system due to the acoustics of the new meeting location. Pete Parker suggested a budget of up to \$500 and noted that a club member would need to store the system and transport to monthly meetings. Ray Gonzales will research options and present a proposal to the Board over the next couple of meetings.
- c. **Recording Equipment** – Ron Ahles suggested HBS get recording equipment to record club presentations/demonstrations and host the videos on the HBS website. Pete Parker suggested tabling the suggestion for further discussion over the next couple HBS meetings. Ron Ahles will research this issue further over the next couple of months.

## X. **Adjournment**

Gale Childers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Soon Cheah and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.