

San Diego County Orchid Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Date: September 03, 2020

Location: Zoom, a videoconferencing app

Meeting called to order at 7:12 PM

Attendees:

Deborah Halliday	President
Stewart Walton	First Vice-President
Myra DeTate	Treasurer
David Vandebroek	Secretary
Sima Perkins	Director-at-Large
Kay Klausing	Past President

Deryl Adderson	SDCOS Member
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Excused:

Jack Schaefer	Director-at-Large
Carey McCoy	Director-at-Large

Absent:

No one was absent from this meeting.

With 5 board members initially present, a quorum was established.

President's Comments

This month we had several people contribute plant forum pictures from both SDCOS and POS, which was encouraging. Debby attended the meetings of a couple other orchid society's meetings and believes ours is comparing favorably to them and that we have our process well dialed in. There was general agreement with this. One of the biggest positive factors in how our meetings have gone is that we prep our speakers; a test Zoom call prior to the live event has made the live event much smoother. There followed discussion about whether we should continue to offer a zoom option after the pandemic. Difficulties were brought up, but the board was generally in favor of trying to work something out to allow this.

Treasurer's Report

- Myra presented the treasurer's report. The usual discussion followed. Myra noted some additional expenses, including the PO Box fees, AOS's 2-year membership, the monthly Storage unit costs, and the Board Bond policy.
- Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion seconded, unanimous approval.

General Meeting

Lou Jost will be presenting. The OCA works closely with Lou, which is one place interest in him came from; he will also be presenting in the Orchid Digest's Speaker's Day. Myra noted that she prefers to pay speakers using PayPal and encouraged Stewart to see if speakers would

accept that. Stewart noted that internet where Lou is is spotty. Suggested that Debby run the slides so that there's less data that needs to run through his internet connection. Stewart will work with Debby on this.

We presently have no speaker lined up for November. Stewart was unable to get a hold of Ken and will continue to work to line up a speaker.

There followed discussion about what we want to do during December, where we usually hold our Holiday Party. All agreed we should do something special. The possibility of a happy hour - type meeting was discussed, but discarded because our group will likely be too large to make that practical. Getting someone from Australia or New Zealand made sense, as our time zones would allow this. All agreed this would be fun – especially since our climates are compatible. Australian Dendrobiums grow well here. Stuart will look into this.

In our December meeting, we usually do a plant raffle. We discussed at length what we would like this to look like this year. The plan that took form was to limit this meeting to SDCOS members only, as we usually do; at some point in the meeting allow people to choose one of, say, 3 vendors: Fred, Andy, or Casa de las Orquideas and then after that have SDCOS place bulk orders and have the vendors ship semi-random plants to the members who attended. There was discussion about how/if to inform people this would be happening. Some ideas included to announce a Christmas surprise, simply say “as always, if you attend you will get a gift”, or say nothing and have it be a surprise. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Debby will talk with Alex and note that we're going to do our own Christmas party; this gives him enough warning to make sure POS can plan their own holiday party. There was general agreement that we will hold off on any other plant giveaways until after Christmas.

Culture Class

For last month's class, we had 28 attendees. Phyllis talked on *Neofinetia falcata* and how to repot them. It was done very well. She allowed us to record it; we will need to work with Jack to see if we can get it posted to the website. Phyllis did not want it uploaded to a site like YouTube.

John Oswalt will be presenting on RO systems in November. We don't have any speakers for next month yet; Stewart will try to find one as we would prefer not to cancel altogether. Myra noted that repotting Phals is always a good topic. Debby said she could do this, but since she presents often, it would be nice if we could get someone else to provide our members with variety.

There was a side discussion asking if, during the plant forum, we could use Zoom to spotlight people as their plants are discussed – to make their video appear alongside their pictures as Debby presented them. All agreed it would be fun, but it would be very hard to implement. Whoever oversees spotlighting should know many members of both SDCOS and POS and receive a copy of the plant forum beforehand so they can be prepared and know the order of who to spotlight.

There was another side discussion about a potential culture class on how to photograph orchids. Kay suggested and will reach out to Ron Parsons. In addition to being a generally valuable skill, during these e-meeting times, being able to take good photos of our plants is very useful and will enhance our society's overall experience.

Reopening

Agreed to postpone decision on reopening for now. We will assume we will be remote for the rest of 2020.

Maintaining Zoom Post-Pandemic - Stewart

When we reopen, some people will not attend. Stewart thinks we would like to keep Zoom meetings in addition to live meetings. The possibilities of potentially having remote speakers and broadcasting our live speakers to remote members is appealing. One issue is bandwidth: at present we can't get internet in our usual meeting room. There are workarounds for this such as signal boosters and relays. Other practical concerns such as setting up cameras/mics every time were mentioned. Many people felt that, if we do this, it would be good to limit the number of times people could attend virtually as guests of the society without a membership.

Orchid Digest Speakers Day

We wanted to know if the Board was ok with giving the Orchid Digest a free full-page ad in our newsletter. There was general agreement that that would be fine. Debby will send Sandra's info to David to coordinate what this will look like.

Plant Sales

It was noted that it is possible to do online auctions. Many online auction houses have \$300-500 fees, which is too much for us. Conservation needs more money. They did a silent auction fairly successfully; Debby will ask Ron or Betty about this. She will also ask if Conservation would be willing to put together an auction where we take plants from members and auction them off just to raise money for conservation.

Member sales becomes more complicated. For one thing, collecting sales tax is difficult, as well as the Society's share; with conservation it is easy as you can simply back out the sales tax on the overall amount raised. It's possible that members will be more likely to donate to Conservation since we haven't been able to do member sales lately.

Brazil Orchid Show

We can have five plants per person and a total of 100 plants for the society. Debby is still soliciting pictures and will compile them before sending to the organizer.

October Show

We discussed the chances of us having a show in October. The chances seemed small, and it would be good to give people more warning to reduce uncertainty. There was a motion to cancel the October show. Motion seconded, unanimous approval.

Other Business

Volunteer Award Coupons: table for now; it is nonurgent and we want Jack present.

New Spring Show Venue: on hold for now

Scheduled Date for the next Board Meeting:

Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 7:00 PM Via Zoom. There being no further business, Deborah Halliday, President, adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Vandebroek
Secretary