

MINUTES – ST. LOUIS HOSTA SOCIETY BOARD MEETING, JAN 15, 2021

VIA ZOOM

The Board Meeting was held via Zoom. Present were Phyllis Weidman, Melinda Ligon, Dave & Joan Poos, Lynn Teller, Josh Jagger, Mike and Sharon Schmitt, Jolly Ann Whitener. David Birenbaum was also present via phone. This was our first attempt to conduct a meeting with Zoom. I believe it went well.

The first thing that Phyllis would like the Board to do to help revise the By-Laws. We must create an amendment or new article to reflect need to be able to change number of meetings and the date of the Board meeting. We are to write up a suggested revision and email to Phyllis.

We could try for 6 meetings in 2021, starting with May, June, July, August, Sept and Oct. Perhaps we could have them some place outside, a park or someone's garden (who has space to socially distance) this is about the only way we could do it. We could schedule discussions such as dividing hostas, companion plants etc. There are lots of parks to choose from but would be nice to have a covered area just in case the weather did not cooperate. . That does limit our choices. Tower Grove park was mentioned, they have a covered pavilion. There may be a problem parking close.

Jolly Ann reported there will be no Vendors Day. The vaccine roll out is going to be slow, plus we have no place that we can rent at this time. The room at Creve Coeur Community Center is still there and the court has not moved down yet. All on hold because of Covid. In any event we can not reserve a room at this time and have no idea when that will change. Jolly Ann will contact our vendors and explain the situation. She will also ask them if there are any changes in how members can reach them to buy hostas.

Jolly Ann mentioned doing programs using Zoom but group feels like most members would not be interested in doing it that way, they may not be set up to do zoom meetings.

Plant Sale – Jolly Ann mentioned that they could use her yard, it is large and easy to socially distance.

Phyllis mentioned that it would be nice if the group could go to the Botanical Gardens and visit the Hosta area but unfortunately we are limited in how many can go in at one time.

The Board spent most of the time going over Dave's proposed 2021 budget, item by item.

Expense Items – 2021

Speakers, budget \$200. It was decided that since we might have some virtual speakers because new members need to know the basics such as dirt, dividing, companion plants etc to leave it as is.

Meeting Room Rental \$600. We have not received a bill from Creve Coeur for room rental early in 2020 so we decided to leave in the budget.

Advertising - \$50 – unlikely that we will need this item so removed it from proposed budget.

Newsletter - \$130 – Newsletter will continue to be published. They are important to maintain communications with our members.

New Member Mailing/packets - \$25 – We have not been doing this so removed from budget

Liability Insurance - \$0 – Since no major Hosta conventions this year, will leave at \$0

Refreshments - \$100 – We need to let Melinda know our preference. Any items should be packaged items. Everyone could bring their own refreshments but keep in the budget just in case.

Web Site - \$600 – Lynn Teller thinks renewal will be \$250-\$300 so we changed budget to \$300

Mo Bot Donations - \$500 – Phyllis thinks we can take it down to \$250 because we will probably not be working there this year and not buying hostas.

Mo Bot Status Fee - \$150 – Decided to reduce to \$0 this year. Amount paid in 2020 will be rolled over to 2021.

Other Donations - \$0 – Decided to leave at \$0

Potluck Dinner - \$0 In view of continuing pandemic did not budget anything for this, will keep as is.

Plant Sale - \$250 – Will we have plant sale? Usually at Mo Bot in May No place to have it, did not have one in 2020 and will not have one in 2021. Removed the \$250.

SLHS Shirts - \$40 – Will continue to sell shirts. Left the \$40 in budget

Holiday Party - \$150 – In the event the Covid-19 situation is under control by end of year we left in budget.

Miscl. Operating Expenses - \$100 - Decided to leave as is.

Square Fees - \$20 – Since no sales this year decided to remove this item from budget

Bus Trip - \$0 – Since this is very unlikely this year, left budget as is.

Club Plant Sale - \$1200 – Since this is hard to handle with no meetings it was decided to remove from budget - \$0

Revenue Items –

Dues - \$300 – Renewal of membership and new members

Member Auction - \$700 – Last year we had this auction at Timber Creek Nursery – made \$340. Left it at \$700 in hopes we can do same this year and make more money

Plant Sale - \$600 - The sale we usually have in May at Mo Bot. Can not do that in 2021 so we reduced to \$0

Miscellaneous - \$0 – Decided to leave at \$0

Shirts - \$40 – Shirts still being sold so left at \$40

Amazon Smile Donation - \$0 – Decided to leave at \$0

Bus Trip - \$0 – Unlikely to happen this year, leave as is.

Club Plant Sale - \$1200 – Since we will not be having this sale in 2021 Reduced to \$0

That means our total expenses this year are \$1,890 and Revenue \$1040, Loss \$850

Balance in bank on Dec 7, 2020 was \$7,679.96 plus an \$18,304.53 CD expiring on 1/17/2022.

The Board is very pleased with the new Web Site and thanked Lynn Teller for all her work. She needs more pictures for the site, so please send her photos.

Mike Schmitt keeps the Hosta Society Facebook page up to date and will remind the members to check out the new web site and ask them to send photos of their gardens to Lynn Teller at lynn.teller@gmail.com so she can include on the web site.

Josh Jagger will work on scheduling some meetings and locations. Joan Poos needs info for next Newsletter by January 31.

We are asking David Birenbaum to audit the books. Dave will send him the info he needs for the audit.

Bruce Buehrig is working on some new programs. Josh said Betsy Alexander is scheduling for 2021. Question was raised can you use UTube presentations during a Zoom meeting. Melinda does not know. National is having the same problems. Perhaps we should contact them for ideas.

FYI = AHS has on line auction going on now.

Josh suggested doing a live feed – while working in garden, could live stream on Facebook.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Jolly Ann Whitener, Secretary