

**American Dahlia Society  
Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting  
May 5, 2024**

Present: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Alli Richards, Ken Jensen, Charles Miehm, Terry Schroeder, Harry Rissetto, and Ron Miner.

The meeting was opened at 1:05 pm PDT.

There was a discussion about the operating budget and all things are looking good. Our dues income is ahead of the projections. There was a question of having no production expenses for the April *Bulletin*. Charles has emailed Colin to send in an invoice for his work on the April *Bulletin* but has not received anything. He will follow up with him.

The finance committee has been working on a fund-raising campaign for the national show endowment fund. They are making substantial progress and hope to launch the campaign soon. Charles has opened a savings account specifically for that fund.

The strategic planning committee has one more meeting to finalize their ideas. A summary of what they have produced will be presented for discussion at the planning meeting in June. They will have a list of proposed action items for the ADS to work on over the next several years.

The committee formed to look for a new *Bulletin* editor is making progress. They have a few potential candidates and are also looking to at the concept of developing a team to help share the load. The plan is to have someone identified to work with Linda in putting together the next two editions of the *Bulletin*.

There was much discussion regarding the misunderstandings about the ADS membership year and when new members start receiving publications. New members who joined late in the previous year are not sure why they are not getting any publications. We have not provided good information about what the new members should expect. It was suggested that new members should receive a copy of the next issue of the *Bulletin*. It was felt that more members would like to receive the *Bulletin* as opposed to the CHD. It is important to communicate to new members what they will get. Brad has a copy of the introduction email new members receive. He will redo the introduction letter for new members. After discussion, **Terry Schroeder moved, and Charles Miehm seconded to allow new members who join from October 1 to March 1 receive printed copies of the next issue(s) of the *Bulletin*. They will receive a printed copy of the CHD in the next cycle. The motion passed.**

There was discussion about discontinuing the extended membership. It was felt this was confusing to members and was not being used as intended. **Alli Richards moved, and Ken Jensen seconded to discontinue the extended membership. The motion passed.**

There was a discussion about the spring planning meeting in June. There is concern whether we can accomplish what we need to do Saturday morning and then take the afternoon off to be at the Minnesota Dahlia Society picnic and tour the University of Minnesota arboretum. Brad has started to work on the agenda for the spring planning meeting and will be looking for input from the Board.

Mark stated he and Dan can bring plants for an auction at the spring planning meeting. He said Steve Lamb is also planning to bring some of his Agape originations. Ken said he can bring something as well. Mark will discuss this with the Minnesota Dahlia Society

The cut flower committee would like to have a competition for cut flowers at shows. They have produced a score card. Still to be determined is how the judging would be done. It is potentially another section that would be included in the local dahlia shows. The idea is to expose the public to another aspect of growing dahlias.

There was discussion about the *Bulletin* content. It is felt we need to have an editorial board to oversee what is and what is not in the *Bulletin*. We need a balance of the content in the *Bulletin*. Perhaps we can have an editorial board set up when the new editor comes on board. Ideally, the editorial board would have representatives from various committees to discuss the *Bulletin* content so it has informative articles and information that is important to ADS members. It may be that society reports could be moved to the public side of the website to create additional room in the *Bulletin*. Both members and non-members would have an opportunity to read those reports which may help create additional interest in the local dahlia societies. Alternatively, the cost to add pages to the *Bulletin* is negligible so the size of the *Bulletin* could be increased to include all the content.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schroeder, Secretary