

American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Executive Committee Meeting
March 2, 2025

Present: Mark Oldenkamp, Linda Holmes-Cook, Ken Jensen, Charles Miehm, Terry Schroeder, Brad Freeman, Harry Risetto, and Jerry Landerholm

The meeting was opened at 1:10 pm PST by President Mark Oldenkamp. The primary purpose of the meeting was discussion of additional work on the genome project and the spring planning meeting.

Genome Project

The genome markers are not patentable as they are naturally occurring. There are so many variables in the dahlia so there is concern about who would be interested as it would take a lot of money to get the characteristics you would want in a dahlia.

There was discussion about why we initially got into the genome project. It was felt that we were trying to find the genome. We found out how difficult it is to identify the genome due to the genetics of the dahlia being so complicated. We did accomplish the genome of the Edna C. Information about the genome project will be published. According to Dr. Harkess, there are two papers in process and Zach's PhD will result in four or five publications.

After discussion, it was felt that we should make a report wrap up with information about where we are and what has been done. Mark stated he plans to have a section on the agenda at the planning meeting to give the board the update on the genome project.

Spring Planning

Mark has developed a draft agenda for the meeting. Mark plans to talk with Bob about what the New Mexico Society wants to do. Terry stated the meetings are taking place at a different location than the hotel. It was brought up that when there is something significant in a written report, it should be brought out at the meeting. There are some board members who are not receiving emails through the GroupVine email. Mark hopes to have a GroupVine online training on how to get signed up with GroupVine. Mark wants to find out if there is a plan to have a dinner on Friday evening and on Saturday after the planning session. He feels that we should be able to finish by about 4 pm so we have a little break before dinner. There was discussion about those arriving on Thursday who may want to go to dinner together.

Trial Garden Award

Jerry has received a suggestion to honor long-time trial garden volunteers. He proposes a 9 x 12 walnut plaque that would cost \$54 plus 15 cents per letter. It was felt there needs to be criteria for the award. Jerry was asked to work with Heidi and Jerry to see what their thoughts are on the idea and come back to the executive committee in June for further discussion and decision. It might also be possible to ask Marilyn if she has any thoughts on the idea of the award.

The next meeting will be the board and planning meetings on March 28, 29 and 30 starting Friday evening at 7 pm MDT. The next executive committee meeting will be June 22, 2025, at 1 pm PDT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm PST.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Schroeder, Secretary

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