

**Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

March 27, 2015

Board Members Present:

Markus Smith	Vincent Debrock
Michael Sultan	Misti Perez
Margaret Hall Spencer	Micah Pace
Lara Schuman	Matt Grubisich
Oscar Mestas	Jim Carse
Terry Kirkland	Jim Dossett

Board Members Absent:

Orlando De La Garza	Lee Evans
Nevic Donnelley	Matt Churches

Others Present

John Giedraitis, Executive Director

I. Call to order

Markus Smith called to order the regular meeting of the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:21 AM on March 27, 2015 at the Ranger Museum, Waco, Texas. A quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion was made by Sultan to approve the Minutes of the December 12 meeting. Motion seconded by Schuman. Motion passed.

III. Welcome and Introductions

IV. Executive Director Report

Executive Director: Giedraitis report is attached.

V. Committee Reports

- a) Finance/Treasurer: Giedraitis reported for Evans. Report is attached. It was noted that the CD purchase was made on a three year ladder.
- b) Editor: Mestas handed out the attached Newsletter Operational Guidelines and reported that the new advertising rates are now in place. There was a discussion on the advertising contract with Pancoast Concerns. **A motion was made by Debrock to cancel the contract with Pancoast Concerns and contract these services with Acorn Arbor Services, LP with the same terms except with the provision of free advertising. Motion seconded by Spencer. Motion passed.** Mestas agreed to send a letter to Pancoast giving the required 120 day notice and revise the contract.

- c) COR: Spencer reported that in the COR election for the ISA Board, Paul Johnson was elected. She also noted that COR is putting together a list of schools that provide tree related courses. She also requested to let her know if the Board has any items to take to ISA.
- d) Certification: Perez provided the attached report. She noted that there has been an increase in annual certifications and that a test will be held in Houston. The Board also discussed the TNLA request to provide a test at the Expo this August in Dallas. The Board agreed and Courtney Blevins has agreed to proctor.
- e) Texas Tree Conference: Debrock is Chair for 2015 and he reported that it is in the planning stage and the Conference Committee is established the title as Tree-nectivity, Re-connecting with the Environment. He also noted that the Academy will be class and field based. He noted that the program agenda will be set by the beginning of May.
- f) Texas Tree Climbing Championship: Kevin Bassett Chair sent in his attached report. It will be held June 10-13 in Trinity Park in Fort Worth.
- g) Arbor Day: No report.
- h) Membership: Pace is the chair and will be working with his committee to contact each new member every two months. Evans, Grubisich, Kirkland and Smith have offered to assist.
- i) Educational Events Committee: Schuman presented the attached calendar. She reported that Frank Rinn is still interested in presenting on biomechanics next year. ISAT will schedule another TRAQ with Skip Kincaid for next November. There will be a Certified Arborist prep class in Austin in June and July hosted by the City of Austin, TreeFolks and TFS. She also noted that she is in discussion about hosting the Municipal Forestry Institute next year.
- j) Publicity: Grubisich reported that he will take the lead on the ISAT booth at the TNLA Expo. Debrock noted that he has printed up ISA Spanish language brochures and that he sent some to the recent workshop in Edinburg. It was suggested that the Publicity Committee maintain a spreadsheet on the location of the ISAT booth.
- k) Scholarships: No report. SFA scholarship funds have been sent and their ceremony is in April.
- l) Research: Giedraitis reported that Florida has raised about \$500,000 of the \$1M needed for an endowed chair at the University of Florida and said it would be \$1.2 for TAMU. Dossett suggested a committee of industry, ISAT, TFS and university to address the issue of the lack of arboricultural research, education and extension publications.
- m) Sponsors and Exhibitors: Carse reported that the sponsor and exhibitor brochure has been mailed and emailed. Registration is now online for the Tree Climbing Contest and the Texas Tree Conference.
- n) Elections: No report.
- o) Legislation: Kirkland passed out the enclosed report. He noted that there are several bills that may affect tree care and protection in Texas. The Board agreed that the members should be kept up to date on these and they will be included in an email blast to members. He noted that he will monitor Bill alerts.
- p) Digital and Social Media: Spencer provided the attached report.
- q) Awards: Carse reported that he has sent the draft criteria for the new ISAT Volunteer of the Year award to Paul Johnson.

VI. Old Business

- a) 2016 ISA Conference in Fort Worth: Carse as Chair reported that his committee had its first phone conference in February and the next call will be in April. The committee will begin organizing the ISAT promotional booth for the ISA Orlando conference. Schuman has agreed to chair the Arbor Fair and Tree Academy portion of the ITCC in San Antonio in 2016 under Carse's Local Arrangements Committee.
- b) Bylaws: **A motion was made by Dossett to approve the amendment to the Bylaws to extend the term of the Directors from two years to three years. Debrock seconded. Motion passed**

VII. New Business

- a) Oak Wilt Certification vs Qualification: Pace as Chair reported that ISAT met with TFS last month to discuss the status of the Oak Wilt Certification Program. He noted that TFS will be turning the certification program over to ISAT after this year's course. ISAT will lead and maintain the vendors and certificant data on the web and TFS will maintain the www.texasoakwilt.org website. TFS will also assist in the development of a new 'Qualification' curriculum to replace the Oak Wilt Certification.
- b) Publicity/Public Awareness: Smith led a discussion on the need to promote ISA Certified Arborists to the public. Pace agreed to look into the possibility of using a marketing firm as a consultant to make sure that funds are used efficiently.
- c) 2016 Tour de Trees/Tree Fund. Schuman passed out the attached proposal from the Tree Fund. It was agreed that the Board would hold a phone conference in April to discuss and vote on the proposal.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be in Waco at 10 AM on May 22, 2015.

IX. Adjournment

Markus Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:47 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Giedraitis

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ISAT March 27, 2015 Board Meeting

Action Items (deleted as completed)	Board Member		Comments
Cancel contract with Pancoast and contact with Acorn Arbor Services, LP	Mestas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Certification test at TNLA Expo	Perez	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ISAT booth at TNLA Expo	Grubisich	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create committee to look at lack of arboricultural and urban forestry research, education and extension publications	Dossett	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keep track of ISAT booth location	Debrock	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Revise and post revised Bylaws	Giedraitis	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Develop new Oak Wilt Qualification Course	Pace	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Inquire with marketing firm about best way to reach the public with the hire the Certified Arborist message	Pace	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2016 Tour de Trees sponsorship by ISAT – Board vote in April	Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	

ISAT December 12, 2014 Board Meeting

Action Items (deleted as completed)	Board Member		Comments
How will ISAT be organized into 2015 Arbor Day celebration at the Bush Library	Churches/Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Calls to new Members every two months	Pace	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Scholarship policy	Churches	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Status 2016 Tour de Trees	Sultan – Dossett	<input type="checkbox"/>	
New Election Policy	Sultan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legislative efforts in 2015 session	Kirkland	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Revise Bylaws to extend term of Directors from 2 to 3 years	Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>	