

**Texas Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wild Basin Creative Research Center, Austin, Texas
March 7, 2019**

Present:

Emily King, President	Rebecca Johnson, Editor	Neil Manich, Director
Micah Pace, Past President	Curtis Hopper, Director	Misti Perez, Cert. Liaison
Jason Alfaro, President-Elect	Chris Lane, Director	John Giedraitis, ISAT Exec Dir
A.J. Thibodeaux, Vice President	Gary O'Neil, Director	Gene Gehring, ISAT Ed Prog
Greg David, Treasurer	Evan Anderson, Director	

Present Online:

Oscar Mestas, COR Liaison	Priscilla Files, Director	Ronny Nelson
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Absent:

Matthew Simmons, Director	Star Quintero, Director	Kirsten Schneider, Director
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I. Call to order

- a. President King called to order the ISAT Board of Directors at 10:03 AM on March 7, 2019. A quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of minutes

- a. **A motion was made by Manich to accept the November 2018 minutes. O'Neil seconded, and the motion passed. (pages 4-5)**

III. Executive Director Report

- a. Giedraitis reported on activities since the November Board meeting and presented a Quick Stats report summarizing membership, certification and financial status. (report p. 6)

IV. Committee Reports

a. Educational Events

- i. Thibodeaux presented the event schedule for 2019 and introduced Gene Gehring, the new ISAT Educational Program Manager. He also noted that in a survey of the North Central Urban Forestry Conference, most new attendees learned about the event from the ISAT email newsletters. There was some discussion on how many of the ISAT educational events are now annual branded programs and how the Educational Events Committee should be structured next year. There was also an update on the Women's Climbing Workshop to be held in 2020. (reports p. 7-9)

b. Texas Tree Conference

- i. Alfaro reported that this year's conference theme is 'Inspiring Change'. He also noted that all the committee chairs are in place except the Commercial Educational Track and the logo is in development. Speaker signup, Poster signup and Sponsorship and Exhibitor registrations are now online. There was a discussion on raising exhibitor fees that was referred to committee for decision. (report p. 10-11)

- c. **Texas Tree Climbing Championship**
 - i. Giedraitis reported that the San Gabriel Park in Georgetown is permitted and the Arbor Fair now has a chair. Volunteer, Exhibitor and Arbor Fair group registrations are now open online. (report p. 12)
- d. **Publicity + Outreach** (report p. 13-14)
 - i. **Newsletter.** Johnson reported that there is discussion on expanding by adding four more pages and the need for Spanish language articles. (report p. 15)
 - ii. **Research + Scholarships.** Ronny Nelson was present online and reported that the Research Committee is looking at including the TREE Fund funding cycle and adding Texas research results in the newsletter. (p. 16-17) On Scholarships, he reported that SFA will accept \$3,000 for scholarships and Dr. Hans Williams has asked for support for undergraduate research. Nelson also noted that there are funds in the budget to support students to attend the Texas Tree Conference. (report p. 18)
- e. **Advocacy**
 - i. The report from Keith Mars on House Bill 969 was presented by Giedraitis. (report p. 19)
- f. **Executive** (report p. 20)
 - i. **Nominations and Elections.** Pace noted that there is only one Director seat open in the next election in addition to three officers who serve a one-year term. (report p. 21)
 - ii. **Treasurer.** David provided the 2018 and year-to-date Income and Balance Sheet statements. He also reported that his committee is looking at moving reserve funds from CD's and bond mutual funds to Treasury Direct to get a higher interest rate. David also noted that the Finance Committee needs another Director and an outside member. Lane volunteered to serve on the committee. (report p. 22-28) **A motion was made by David to invest up to \$20,000 of reserves in a 30 day note in Treasury Direct to investigate it as an alternative investment vehicle for ISAT reserves. Lane seconded, and the motion passed. A motion was made by David to add Gene Gehring, the contract ISAT Education Program Manager, to the Wells Fargo account. Johnson seconded and the motion passed.**
- g. **Working Groups**
 - i. **Arborist Select.** Lane reported he is working to develop a pilot program. The vision is to encourage better container tree growing techniques so there is greater survival after planting and less maintenance as they grow.
 - ii. **Texas Regional Plant Appraisal.** Pace reported that the 2019 update to the Texas Supplement for the 9th edition is available online. He also gave an update on the TxRPAC work to adapt the new 10th edition to Texas. He noted that ASCA is providing appraisal qualification training starting this year. (report p. 29)
- h. **Liaisons**
 - i. **Certification Liaison.** Perez reported that there are currently eight Certified Tree Worker evaluators in Austin and a training was recently held in Austin to train evaluators from Dallas. She also asked that if anyone is interested in being a test proctor to contact her. She also noted that the Texas ISA Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualification training is now eligible for ISA CEU's. (report p.30)
 - ii. **TREE Fund Liaison:** Johnson reported that she is the new Liaison to the Tree Research Educational Endowment Fund. ISAT will sponsor Neville Mann's ride in the Tour de Trees this year. (report p. 31)
 - iii. **Council of Representatives.** Mestas reported that he is the new liaison. One of his functions is to take Chapter issues to the COR for solutions. They are meeting by phone on April 11 and he asked that if there are any issues, to please send him an email. (report p. 32)
 - iv. **TNLA Liaison:** Lane noted that TNLA would like to have other organizations support educational programs at the TNLA Expo and at regional meetings and that the Expo will be held in San Antonio for the next several years.

V. **Old Business**

- a. Review of 2019 Work Plan: King reviewed and updated the 2019 Work Plan with the Board incorporating recent work as reported by the Committees at this meeting. (report p. 33)

VI. **New Business**

- a. Policy on listing Oak Wilt Qualified vendors on the ISAT website. **A motion was made by David to approve the policy on listing Oak Wilt Qualified vendors on the ISAT website. Lane seconded and the motion passed.** (Policy p. 34)

VII. **Adjourn** - King adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM

VIII. Next meeting in Waco on June 13, 2019 - Location TBA

Minutes submitted by Giedraitis