

PGVG Board and Membership Meeting
Saturday, February 10, 2024

Meeting called to order by Kendall Spielman at 9:04 a.m.

In attendance: Kendall Spielman, JR Frankfurt, Ron Edwards, Velma Edwards, Brad Bahns, Sam Felten, Tina Standley, Ivan Standley, Olivia Bucks, Brian Williams, Ellann Cohen, Toby Cowger, Jim Sherwood, Russ Pugh, Ron Barker, David Marvin

Minutes:

- The minutes were approved previously through an email to the board.

Treasurer's Report:

- Brian Williams reported that our current balance is \$14,196.30.
- All auction lots from Auction #1 have been paid.
- 99 paid members currently
- There was a question about doing a savings or other interest yielding account for extra funds. That has been considered, but the balance fluctuates enough that it wouldn't be practical. Also, the budget is set up so that we don't carry over a high balance from year-to-year.

Secretary:

- No report

Social Media:

- Will be promoting the second seed auction and the upcoming Spring Seminar.
- There are two Facebook accounts (one is the non-profit). Olivia reported that it would be nice if it were just one account.

Outreach:

- PGVG will present and have a table at the Hardy Plant Society "Plant Nerd Night" that will be held Sunday, March 3 at Lake Oswego High School. Usually about 600-700 people attend this event.

Newsletter:

- The newsletter can be found at www.gpc1.org (Greater Pumpkin Commonwealth)

GPC Report:

- Next year's convention is in Green Bay, Wisconsin. It would be great if we could send a large contingent of PGVG members.

Seed Committee:

- Our first auction raised just over \$7000. Auctions are held at www.bigpumpkins.com
- Our Silent Auction ended at 1:00 p.m. on February 9.
- The second auction is on February 25th.
- It seems that the double lot strategy is working well in the auctions. Basically, it brings in twice the money.

Fundraising:

- We gained two sponsors last year. They are still represented on our website.
- The sponsorship document is updated and posted on the website.

- It was suggested that we produce a video that could be shown to potential sponsors.
- JR will get a time slot at the Spring Seminar to talk about sponsorships.

Old Business:

- A. Communication with growers—entry form wording.
 - Some changes were needed due to misunderstanding who holds the rights to top pumpkins after weigh-offs.
 - Prize money gives the venue the right to keep your pumpkin, but not the seeds.
 - Choosing to keep the pumpkin forfeits your winnings, but not your standing in the competition.
 - We also discussed weigh-off flyers and how soon we can get those out. Not always easy because we are often waiting on the exact amount the prize purse will be.
 - **Action:** Brian, Kendall, and Ellann will have the wording for the entry forms by the next meeting.
- B. Bylaws/language on entries per address
 - We discussed the issue of two entries at weigh-offs coming from the same address. GPC rules are specific that only one of those entries can be eligible for prize money.
 - Ellann provided copies of the updated bylaws. Brian Williams read the bylaws to the group.
 - **Motion:** Board members should not have free membership to PGVG. Motion fails.
 - We noted the Members at Large on the board do not have a description of duties in the bylaws. **Action:** will be added at a later date.
 - We discussed some of the wording in the description of duties of the Seed Chairperson and decided to leave as is.
 - In the description of duties for the webmaster it will be modified to state that website updates will be made upon approval by a designated board member (Brian Williams currently communicates most of the postings to the webmaster.
 - **Motion:** Approve the bylaws as amended. Approved.
 - There was a question about how we make members aware of the bylaws. They will be posted on the website.

New Business:

- Appoint a new Outreach Chair (Jeff Treece is now living out of state). Nominee is Jim Pano. **Action:** Kendall will contact Jim to see if he is interested.
- This year's Patch Tour will be August 10. Brad Bahns will coordinate this. We will stay in the Portland area this year.
- We discussed International Club Members and some of the complications involved with sending them seed packets. **Motion:** Make North American memberships \$40 and European memberships \$60. Approved.
- Nominees for Board:
 - Kendall Spielman, President
 - Ellann Cohen, Vice-President
 - Toby Cowger and Jeff Uhlmeier, Member at Large
 - **Action:** Kendall will email membership for any additional nomination.
- Ron Barker has been approached by the Washington State Fair to sponsor a weigh-off. This would be held at the end of August or ideally a week into September. It was recommended that we offer to do this as a joint venture with PNWVG. **Action:** move this to Old Business to discuss further when we know PNWVG's intentions.

Next Meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.