

Ohio Gourd Show
April 23, 2022

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Ohio Gourd Society was held at Franklin Park conservatory, Columbus, Ohio on April 23, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Nelson Litzenberg, President at 11:00 AM. There were 14 members in attendance.

Motion Prevailed to accept the minutes of the Fall Meeting (October 1, 2021 at the Delaware County Fairgrounds).

Judy Litzenberg, Treasurer, presented summary of 2021 and 2022 budgets, along with the report of income and expenses for the year 2021. The OGS checking account balance, as of April 18, 2022, was \$11 883.25. This amount includes a Youth Fund balance of \$2069.56. **Motion Prevailed** to accept the Treasurers report.

The current membership report shows 102 current OGS members. For 2021, there were 26 members not renewing, and 28 new members added to the role.

Following these reports, the President lead a discussion regarding open officer's positions, and noted that the Five Year Plan discusses the option of hiring an outside firm to assist with planning and advertising.

Committee reports were received as follows:

- Education – John Martin summarized the workshop program for 2022. There will be 23 workshops offered at the 2022 Ohio Gourd Show by 8 Workshop Leaders – James Anspach, Christie DeLamater, Vickie Echols, Miriam Fankhauser, Joni Hasselbach, Vikkie Mustad, Suzi Nonn and Debbie Wilson.
- OGS Promotion – **Motion Prevailed** to accept the suggestion of the Newsletter editor, Vikkie Mustad, to allow the newsletter to be read on the website without requiring a password, and to mail black and white versions of Gourd Greetings to all members.
- Competition and Judging – Karen and John Martin discussed plans for soliciting judges for 2022 and for creating judging teams. They noted that, as decided at the Fall Meeting, awards for the 2022 Show would be given for Best of Division, Peoples' Choice, Judges' Choice and the Jim Story nominee for AGS competition. Participation points in each division, and for the Show, would not be calculated.

At this point in the meeting, the group took a break from business and shared lunch together with a variety of items brought by attendees. Following the lunch break, committee reports continued.

- Vendors – Gordon Smith reported that he was exploring participation by vendors new to the Show, and that he expected most of the 2021 vendors to return in 2022.
- Entertainment – no firm plan has been developed for 2022, but it was agreed that having Mark Hitchcox at the Show in 2021 was great.
- Publicity – It was noted that many visitors to the 2021 Show had not paid the admission fee. Would it be possible to help offset show expenses by selling advertising to local businesses? Suzanne is working on t-shirts and other souvenirs. **Motion Prevailed** to budget \$700 for souvenirs, and to budget \$2100 for advertising and publicity.

- Silent Auctions, etc. - Donna Hutmacher is looking for bucket raffle and auction items for the Show. These fundraising activities were quite popular in 2021.

Following committee reports, the meeting turned to old and new business. Judy and Nelson Litzenberg reported that the cost for our building for the 2022 show have increased by \$120. They also noted a large increase in the rental cost of the cabin where the Dinner was held in 2021. **Motion Prevailed** to move the Saturday Awards Dinner to a Restaurant. Judy ad Nelson Litzenberg will look into the possibility of having the Saturday Dinner at an Italian Restaurant close to the fairgrounds.

The cost of having meetings at the Conservatory is also increasing. Nelson Litzenberg is looking into options for the Post Show Meeting following the Gourd Show (generally in November).

John Martin discussed plans for Gourd Competition at the Ohio State Fair, and is arranging for judges. The entry deadline for competition at the Fair is June 21. Items entered in competition must be dropped off at the fairgrounds on July 17th or 18th. The Ohio Gourd Society will again participate in the Ohio State Fair Artist in Residence Program. John has arranged to OGS participation on July 28, August 2, and August 4.

It was suggested that we post open jobs and positions on the website and on facebook. Nelson Litzenberg will look into that and also see if there is a possibility of getting our food vendors into a better location at the fairgrounds.

There was a question regarding the addition of a “Sculpture” class to our Show Schedule. John Martin will look into that for the 2023 show.

Having concluded the business before the group, **Motion Prevailed** to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Martin, Secretary Pro Tem,