BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Monthly Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024
Forest Glen Golf and Country Club Community Center

President, Richard Davenport, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were Rae Jean Walker, Kris Morton, Stu Rubin, Richard Davenport, Karen Davenport, Linda Van Blerkom, David Orr, Jim Rawson, Carolyn Booker, Marie Harris, Bob Castonguay, Sue Roehl, Terre Morre, Barbara Holdsworth, and Deb Goldman.

1. The Minutes from the August 13, 2024, Board Meeting were reviewed. Sue Roehl moved to approve the Minutes, and the motion passed.
2. Treasurer David Orr, reported NOS currently has $16,593.97 in the checking account and $37,112.50 in CD's. However, several outstanding bills for insurance, etc. will be paid soon, reducing our checking account balance by a few thousand dollars. It was decided that the upcoming CD of around $3000.00 would not be rolled over but would rather be transferred to the checking account to assure liquidity.
3. Membership Chair Marie Harris, reported we have 247 members, which includes three new members. She reported that the upcoming Newsletter would announce that October is renewal time and that raffle tickets will be earned in October, November and December. There will be a raffle ticket drawing in January and the winner will receive a special raffle prize.

New Business:

1. Richard Davenport reviewed the possibility of using a third party for our Treasurer position. The pros and cons were discussed. A committee was formed for further research consisting of David Orr, Bob Castonguay, Terre Morre and Kris Morton. A plan will be presented at the October Board meeting.
2. Richard Davenport discussed the possibility of ending the use of our Post Office Box. Currently it is used for receiving checks for membership payments and mailings regarding NOS insurance policies. Treasurer, David Orr, has been responsible for checking the P.O. Box on a regular basis. If the Club decides to no longer accept cash or checks for memberships and purchases of raffle tickets, t-shirts and hats, then the mailbox would no longer be necessary. Insurance companies would need to be advised of this change and given the address of the Treasurer or whomever is designated. This change will be reflected soon.
3. Revised Membership Application: Marie Harris presented a new Membership Application incorporating suggestions from the August Board Meeting. In coordination with Bob Castonguay, the new Application will be finalized and uploaded to the NOS website and will be available for both membership renewals and new memberships.
4. Richard Davenport discussed the importance of filling our open positions which include a Publicity Chair, Treasurer, and a Historian. Marie Harris reported that her current Membership Chair position would be filled by Deb Goldman and Arlene Cluff. It was agreed by the Board that this position will only have one vote on any items needing Board approval. Marie will then become First Vice President - Programs.
5. AOS Outreach: Kris Morton discussed the AOS Outreach Program which is geared toward finding adults from age 18-25 to become more involved in the AOS. There were discussions regarding the possibility of NOS grants and free NOS memberships. It was determined that FGCU would be a good starting point as we currently have provided a grant to an FGCU student. Kris Morton will continue discussions with AOS. Kris also reminded the Board of the need for volunteers for the UF/IFAS Yard and Garden sale in October.
6. Monthly Meeting Notifications: Marie Harris reported to the Board that she and Bob Castonguay, Communications Director and Newsletter Editor, would like to begin sending e-blasts to the membership with information about any upcoming monthly meeting, which would include information about the speaker, his topic, and also who the Orchid Doctor would be including that topic. The first e-blast would be a week following the latest meeting. The Newsletter would be published around the middle of the month and a final e-blast would be sent to the members the week of the meeting. Marie Harris moved to adopt this new guideline, Karen Davenport seconded, and the motion passed.

7. NOS ads in the Newsletter: Richard Davenport began the discussion regarding current ads which appear monthly in the Newsletter. There were discussions about how this issue would be managed. It was suggested that all Show Vendors should be included on this Newsletter page. They would be responsible for providing their logo. Also included may be sponsors, if they agree, who donate at least $500.00 to NOS. These ads may be placed on a rotating basis. The Show Chair, Jim Rawson, will provide Bob with the names of any vendors or sponsors who provide artwork.
8. Board Openings: Rae Jean Walker, Chair of the Nominating Committee which is comprised of the three Board Directors, will confirm if current Board members wish to continue in their positions. Where known, she will include members who have expressed an interest in an open position. Rae Jean will present the proposed Slate of Directors and Officers at the October meeting.
9. Board Meeting Start Times: Richard Davenport discussed the possibility of beginning Board Meetings at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. Carolyn Booker moved to change the starting time of Board Meetings to 6:00 p.m., Sue Roehl seconded and the motion passed.
10. Dates and Locations of Upcoming Board Meetings: The meeting dates will be October 22, November 12, and December 10. The October meeting will be held at the Davenport residence as the Community Center will not be available. The November and December meetings will be in the Forest Glen Golf and Country Club Community Center. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.
11. Terre Moore, Vice President-Activities, discussed possible field trips for members in addition to major orchid shows. Karen Davenport will contact Sundance Orchids to find out if they would be interested in an NOS field trip and what would be an acceptable number of people.
12. Richard updated the Board on the status of the collaborative research proposed at Okaloacoochee Slough Forest in Felda, Florida.
13. Richard reminded the Board that we had been informed by Naples Botanical Garden that the Culture Class classrooms used for the last few years will not be available in 2025. Alternate locations are being sought.
14. Carolyn Booker moved to adjourn the meeting, Jim Rawson seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Show Chair Jim Rawson at 8:00 p.m.

1. Jim reviewed the goals of the Show, two of which are to reach more people and make more money.
2. Jim reviewed the theme artwork “Orchids In The Garden.” Our Show Banner was on display.
3. Jim advised the Board that Rae Jean Walker has devoted a lot of time in developing the new 2025 Show Schedule and Awards document. Karen Davenport and Rae Jean have also been revising the “Show Guidelines” which will be completed soon and available on the NOS Website.
4. Jim advised the Board that the Show Committee is comprised of the following people: Marie Harris, Karen Davenport, Richard Davenport, Terre Moore, Stu Rubin, David Orr, Jim Longwell with Jim Rawson as Chair.
5. Jim advised the Board that a meeting will be set up with the Naples Botanical Garden in October and will include several of our Show Committee members.
6. 2025 Show Vendor Fees: After discussion led by Jim, a motion was made by Karen Davenport to increase the Flower Vendor Fee from $850.00 to $1000.00 and to increase the Orchid Supply Vendor Fee from $600.00 to $800.00. Rae Jean Walker seconded, and the motion passed. Jim will advise the vendors of this change in Show fees.
7. Jim also discussed the Prize Awards to the top vendors in our Show. In the past, they received a glass trophy. There were discussions about changing these trophy awards to cash awards. Jim will contact the vendors to see what they would prefer.
8. Sponsors: Stu Rubin and Bob Castonguay will begin soliciting sponsors for donations.
9. Show Publicity: Marie Harris discussed various ways to advertise our Show. She contacted AOS about ads in their “Orchid” magazine and received a price quote. After some discussion, it was decided NOS would place 1/3 page ads for the Show in the December and January issues of the magazine, and also place small

classified ads in January and February. The total cost for these ads will be $798.00. Marie moved to place these ads with AOS, Sue Roehl seconded and the motion passed.

10. Marie Harris, along with other Board members and volunteers, will begin distributing our Rack Cards to the community.
11. Marie also discussed an opportunity for NOS to learn more about using Social Media for advertising. Robin DeMattia, an NOS member, has volunteered to give a tutorial to a small group in the near future. The members will be Marie Harris, Terre Morre, Linda Van Blerkom and Karen Davenport.
12. Marie Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, Carolyn Booker seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Davenport, Secretary