



**ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES – 2/20/2019 – DRAFT
Dixie Grill, 99-016 Kamehameha Hwy, Aiea, HI**

Members in Attendance: Desiree Page, Sergio Vasquez, Angela Liu, J Zambo, Justin Donahue, Kai Holt, Kevin Eckert, Alicia Yballa

Guests: Diane Eckert

1. Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes of 11/14/2018, 1/16/2019 - The meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. The minutes of the 1/16/19 meeting were amended, then both minutes were approved.
2. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
 - a) Treasurer's Report and Application for Non-profit Status (Andrew Kendall) – Tabled. Justin asked that the minutes reflect that Andrew has been absent for four meetings.
 - b) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert)
 - i) Update on status of funding to Andy Kaufman – Dr. Kaufman made the same \$1,500 donation request to LICH as he had made to AAA just over a month ago. Additional funding beyond what's needed to secure the research plots will go toward supplies and a research student for the project. Per Kevin, Dr. Kaufman submitted a funding request to the Britton Fund for two years of work on his trees and infrastructure project. At the time of the meeting, a decision on the request had not yet been made. AAA is interested in receiving a summary of the project status, as well as to set up a field visit at the research plot.
 - ii) Guidelines for Tree Care Near Manu-o-Kū (White Tern) Nest Sites (Angela Liu) – The rough draft was shared with the Steering Committee, and the group met at the beginning of February. The Steering Committee members are contributing to the development of the guidelines, and work being done to assemble a Working Group composed of a broad range of stakeholders.
 - c) Training Committee (Chair: Andrew Kendall)
 - i) ASTI (Arborist Safety Training Institute) Grant, Due March 1st, 2019 (Desiree Page) – Desiree proposed to apply for an ASTI grant through TCIA. There was a question as to whether Carol Kwan already applied for this funding on behalf of AAA; Desiree will find out the status of this possibility. If funded, AAA would hold the training between August this year and January 2020, and would cover instructor fee, airfare, hotel, and other expenses as detailed in TCIA's application form. Several training topics were discussed, and it was agreed that EHAP (electrical hazards awareness program) would be the first choice. AAA could invite Stephan Davis as instructor, but consideration will be given to whether any local arborists might be available to deliver this program. A motion to approve going ahead with this proposal was passed by the board.
 - ii) Second Saturday Workshop at Urban Garden Center – Kalani Matsumura at the Urban Garden Center is interested in AAA providing more trainings. UGC's Second Saturday Workshops have openings on 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12 and 11/9. These events are popular with the community, and AAA volunteers who helped with the event last year found it highly rewarding. The group discussed providing chainsaw safety, and small tree pruning trainings. Desiree will contact Andrew about coordinating with Kalani.
 - d) Tree Jamboree, Hawaii Island, February 16th and 17th, 2019 (Chair: Desiree Page) – The Jamboree ran smoothly and we had very positive feedback from volunteers and competitors alike. More volunteers became available to help judge the event, alleviating initial concerns that the event was short-handed. Results were posted to AAA's website and shared via Instagram, and Justin Donahue, placing highest among local climbers, will represent Hawai'i at the Western Chapter ISA climbing competition in June this year. There were a few areas where Desiree and others found improvements could be made:

- i) The judge who had been planned for the ascent event was unable to attend due to a personal emergency, and there had not been a backup plan. There are no qualified judges for this event within Hawaii, and though there are others on the mainland available and qualified, they generally request for their expenses to be covered. A few of these mainland judges include Mark Chisholm and Phillip Kelly. AAA should budget for this in the future.
- ii) Shipping to get event setup equipment and prizes to outer islands is a major expense. There was discussion about ways to avoid having to do this in the future.
- iii) There were a lot of donations from the sponsors in the form of gear that was used as prizes for the competitors, although in the end everything was used. There was discussion that this also happened in past years. In the future, AAA will ask sponsors to donate setup gear and equipment for specific events. Also for future events, AAA can coordinate in advance with the sponsors to agree that extra items, if any, could be auctioned for fundraising purposes.

3. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- a) Agriculture and Environmental Awareness Day, February 7 & 9, 2019 (Desiree Page, Kainoa Holt) – Desiree and Kai were the AAA volunteers for the event this year. The event was well attended on Thursday, with hundreds of fifth graders participating in the presentation delivered by Desiree. An open house welcoming members of the public took place on Saturday. Kai reported that on that day visitors seemed focused on the plant sale and much fewer visitors came by the education booths. There was a discussion on ways to make the AAA booth more exciting, and there was agreement that we should go ahead with the Saturday open house event again next year.
- b) Membership Development (Sergio Vasquez, Angela Liu) – Sergio expressed the importance of having AAA’s presence on the other main islands besides Oahu. He is interested in having one of AAA’s monthly meetings per quarter take place on one of the other main islands, Hawai‘i, Maui and Kauai. He suggested for the AAA monthly meeting to take place along with an educational event.
- c) Volunteer Workday (J Zambo, Dudley Hulbert) – J will contact the Senior Living Facility about rescheduling the volunteer workday that had been cancelled at the end of last year. Several possible dates were determined, and J will coordinate with Kai, Desiree, Sergio and Justin to have two aerial lift trucks, one climber, and other volunteers available for this event. We will also go ahead with a workday at Kualoa Ranch this year.

4. New Business

- a) April 2019 AAA Annual Meeting and Board Election – J moved to reduce the size of the board from eight members to seven. Different alternatives for AAA governance were discussed. There was general agreement that more information was needed, including the consideration and approval of by-laws that would help define board member roles and responsibilities. The original motion by J was seconded and approved. A Nominating Committee was formed with J as chair, Sergio, Kai and Kevin as members.
- b) WCISA Annual Conference, Sheraton Waikiki, April 29th to May 2nd, 2019 (Angela Liu) – AAA will be having an education booth. The cost is \$75, and WCISA is considering whether to offer reduced conference registration for booth volunteers. Many good suggestions were offered on how to develop AAA’s booth. Justin and Angela will work together on this. There followed discussion on auction items that AAA could donate for the Britton Fund silent auction, a fundraiser for education and research, with suggestions made as to wood workers around Hawai‘i that we should contact. WCISA also holds the Britton Fund “Ride for Research” the day before the conference, and everyone is encouraged to sign up to ride and get the word out. WCISA is looking for someone who can chair the Guest Program Committee. Justin will find out if his wife Joanna may be able to help with this, and whether she might be able to lead a tour.

- c) STEW-Map (Angela Liu) – This is a project by Heather McMillen, Urban and Community Forester at the DLNR’s DoFAW office, to map community stewardship activities and collect related data. Angela emailed a file to AAA’s board members prior to this meeting, sharing information on the survey data submitted about AAA. Desiree asked Angela to go ahead and let Heather know the data can be made public.

5. Announcements

- a) Dr. Amjad Ahmad joins Oahu’s Cooperative Extension Service as Assistant Extension Agent in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture.
- b) Calendar of Events – **Simplot’s annual seminar** will be on March 5th. Also, applications to take the **ISA Certified Tree Worker and Certified Arborist exams** will be due March 28th, with the exams taking place April 13th. **LICH’s annual conference** has been scheduled for October 14th, to take place at the Hawai‘i Convention Center on Oahu, one day before and in coordination with the Hawai‘i Agricultural Conference.
- c) ***Please join us on:***
Wednesday March 20th, 2019, 6:30pm – Monthly Meeting, Dixie Grill, Aiea

6. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Liu