

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the
Great River Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists**
November 2, 2024
Edina Country Club

Members present: 34

Great River Chapter President, Catherine Tong, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Secretary, Denise Walser-Kolar, called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. *A motion was made to approve the minutes, was seconded, and the minutes were approved by a voice vote of members present.*

Activities Co-Chair, Pat Schmidt reported on 2024 Activities

GRC sponsored six Zoom presentations for our members (free of charge) in 2024. We also held an in-person event at MIA. Pat thanked Jane Hancock for organizing Open Studio Sessions and thanked Meg Kasting for her work on *Inspired by Nature*.

Membership Chair, Linda Medved Lufkin reported that we have 80 members this year from 8 different states. She talked about Board plans to host a virtual meeting for all members in May (more information will be coming). She also talked about email problems that some members are having (not getting GRC emails) and asked that everyone check the email that we have on file for them.

Treasurer, Donna Gustafson reported on the 2024 Actuals against budget. Copies of the proposed budget for 2025 were on each table for review. ***A motion was made to approve the budget, was seconded, and the 2025 budget was approved by a voice vote of members present*** (a copy of the proposed budget is attached).

Activities Co-Chair, Denise Walser-Kolar, reported on upcoming Zoom presentations for 2025, as well as on the January in-person event that is being planned (Russian Museum). Watch for more information on the GRC website. Catherine Tong will be joining the Activities Committee and will be concentrating on in-person events.

Jane Hancock talked about the monthly studio sessions. Monthly studios are held the second Friday of every month. All members are invited to attend – no need to RSVP – just show up.

Exhibitions Chair, Meg Kasting, reported on the 2024 *Inspired by Nature Exhibition*

All information is on the GRC website. Important dates to remember are: Submission deadline November 7; Opening Reception December 12; Art pickup February 7, 2025. Right now, there are 50 pieces (from 21 artists) – media includes watercolor on paper, watercolor on vellum, colored pencil, graphite, gouache, and ink. Artwork will be on the GRC website after the Opening Reception.

Board Member, Denise Walser-Kolar thanked Catherine Tong for her two years of service as President and presented her with a gift from the membership.

Election of new Officers

Pat Schmidt talked about needing someone to volunteer today to be our next president. We

cannot be a chapter and provide all the activities without a president. Dana Boyle and Lynne Gildensoph volunteered to be Co-Presidents. *A motion was made for Dana Boyle and Lynne Gildensoph to be Co-Presidents of GRC, was seconded, and approved by a voice vote of members present.* Thank you Dana and Lynne.

Lynne Gildensoph, 2025 ASBA Conference Co-Chair presented information on the 2025 ASBA Conference (a copy of her presentation is attached). She talked about each committee and volunteers that are needed. Sign-up sheets are on the front table.

Recognition of Marilyn Garber and the Minnesota School of Botanical Art

Catherine Tong and Ben Lander both thanked Marilyn for her role in starting the Great River Chapter in 2002. We toasted Marilyn and she was presented with a thank you gift from all the members. Marilyn thanked everyone and reminded all of us that ~~we~~ we have to carry the mantle now.

Meeting adjourned: 1:49 p.m. (followed by the conclusion of the silent auction)

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Walser-Kolar, Secretary

***Follow-up Note:** Thank you all for donating to and for shopping at the auction. We raised \$843 for GRC.*