

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of September 16, 2020, via Zoom

Present: Alysia Babcock, Jessie Davis, Ann Fraser, Ilse Gebhard, Mike Klug, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, Margo Rebar, David Riggs, Neil Sikora, Dave Wendling, Kathy McGoff, and Ruth Caputo.

1) Neil called the meeting to order at 6:08.

2) We Approved the Minutes of February 19, 2020.

3) We approved the Treasurer's Report. We received membership reimbursement from National, and \$390 in donations over the last four months.

4) Committee Reports.

a) Monarch (Mike/Carol/Ilse). The PCC event in March was canceled. Monarch display boxes did get set up, but they have seen little activity. These contain seed packets, bookmarks on planting milkweeds, and our own bookmark of programs. Our work for the monarch project has been at a high level, and we are discussing how to continue. We need swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed seeds for propagation, and common milkweed seeds for the seed packets. Collectors should hold the seeds themselves, until we figure out how to deal with them. Ilse is now out of seed packets, though she has some cards etc, which Mike will pick up next week.

b) Publications (Kim). Seedlings has continued to come out during this shutdown. Facebook is doing well and Ann has been taking care of the website.

c) Membership (Margo). Seventeen new members mailed the form directly to Margo. We have exhausted the booklets from National (the "best of" collection), so the new members are just getting a letter. Total membership is down to 134 from 150 in February, perhaps due to lack of meetings, where people often sign up directly.

d) Outreach and Education (Noel). What little activity there has been has been through Mike, including gifts for the PCC Over the Creek and Through the Woods virtual trail run.

e) Programs (Ruth). The committee has put in a lot of time setting up things for the new environment, including a dry run for the general membership meeting next week. Ann is leading the effort to set up everything for the Zoom meeting. The web site and the Seedlings which is coming out this Friday both have the link to sign up for the meeting. Neil will start the meeting as usual, Mike will introduce the speaker, and then the speaker has the floor. The chat room will be open for questions. Up to 100 people can join.

Ruth circulated a list of the programs for eight meetings for next year. The remaining ones for

this year are scheduled as Zoom meetings, and we will see what happens for the remainder. Doug Landis will give his talk which was scheduled earlier. The Committee is working on how to do something that will take the place of field trips. The new program booklet should be available soon, and will be sent to new members.

The plant sale is scheduled to take place as is the Spring Plant exchange at Tom's, and the Fall Exchange at Jesse's. Details about how these will take place in the new environment are being worked out.

f) Community Projects (Paul) We did the last work day for the year at the Public School site.

g) Hospitality (Kathy) We need to get a new banner for the plant sale and plant exchange.

h) Plant Sale (Dave). We will meet early next year to plan, perhaps with emphasis on pre-orders.

i) Mentoring/Site Visits (Dave). Dave had a couple of phone discussions, and is taking names for potential site visits when that becomes possible.

j) Kalamazoo Environmental Council (Sharon was not present). No report.

5) Old Business. None.

6) New Business (not included above)

a) Elections-Nominations. Our standard procedure is to have a committee to present a list of nominees, which is presented at the October meeting, with the election taking place at the November meeting. We will find a way to have the election online.

Kathy, Noel, and Alysia volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee to come up with candidates for the annual positions of the four officers and the four members-at-large.

Kathy thinks that we should announce at the next meeting that the annual elections for 8 positions are being held. We discussed how to canvass the current officers and at-large members about their interest in continuing. Kim will make a short announcement in the Seedlings to the effect that people interested in the positions should contact Kathy. Further details of how to do the election outside of the usual annual meeting format still need to be worked out. Ilse mentioned that the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo used Survey Monkey for this purpose.

We discussed the ways of telling the membership both what we have done this year (an annual report to members), and the things that we usually do and have not been able to do this year.

Margo asked what we wanted to do about the fee that we paid to the Church for the rooms which we did not use. We decided to take no action.

7) General Announcements. For the next (zoom) meeting, Neil wants to keep it short, but he is open to making some announcements, perhaps mentioning the upcoming elections.

9) Adjournment at 7:15.

>>> Next Meeting: Wednesday October 21, 2020; 6 PM on Zoom

Submitted by David Riggs, Secretary