

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of November 11, 2020 via Zoom

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

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

2) We approved the minutes of October 21, 2020.

3) We approved the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$12,477.07 with no outstanding expenses. Membership is 138. Neil mentioned hearing about problems with incorrect email addresses. Kim said she sees many "dead" email addresses on our email list. which now is up to approximately 800 addresses.

2021 Budget. We discussed how to change budget line items to properly reflect the committee changes that have been made. It appears that some distinctions yet may need some clarification, and Noel agreed to work on that and send her recommendations to Margo. Kim asked for Mike's thoughts about the funds needed for the various publications (see "Publications" below). Neil reported that the church is not accepting schedules for meeting rooms for next year. We agreed to examine the draft budget and submit suggestions to Margo.'s

4) Committee Reports

a) Monarch. Mike is collecting milkweed seeds from various sources and is starting to make packets. He has talked with PCC about doing some programs, which will probably be virtual. Mike gave a talk (virtually) and arranged to give out seeds packets for the Barry County Science festival.

b) Publications. After extensive discussion we agreed that that the new bookmark would include the names of the speakers along with the title of their talks and that we will have 1000 copies printed to be mailed to members and distributed to places like libraries and nature centers. The postage for mailing will come from the budget for this year for outreach. The flier will only be available in digital format (Kim is working on the best way to do that.)

c) Membership. No significant changes.

d) Outreach and Education. Noel reported that Paul and Mike have provided some assistance for work on a list of books and resources for general membership reading.

e) Programs. Ruth did a successful dry run of this month's membership meeting presentation. Mike will introduce the speaker. Next year's programs are all set. Mike noted that for Ann's

program, we need a person to run Zoom. Ruth will investigate who might be able and willing to fill that role. Ann has made her Zoom license available for our use.

f) Community Projects. Paul has distributed a tentative schedule for next year to the committee for approval. He expects to continue with the same kind of activities as last year, although probably at a lower level of activity due to COVID.

g) Hospitality. No activity, and no report

h) Plant Sale. No report

i) Mentoring/Site Visits. No report

j) Kalamazoo Environmental Council. No report

5) Old Business

a) Elections. Jessie has confirmed that she will run for President, leaving the positions of Vice-President and one Member-at-large open. We should advertise these openings to the membership. Kim and Margo will work on how to hold the election online with a "survey" via MailChimp.

b) Keep Kalamazoo Wild (Land Purchase) by Stewards of Kleinstuck-Donation. Before the meeting Neil disturbed via email the results of his discussion with Erin Fuller, President of the Stewards of Kleinstuck (SofK) (see following). We decided to table this discussion.

I noted that I am not committing to any KAWO funding and merely gathering info on several organizations, in case we decide to distribute anything this year. Here are the highlights of the conversation:

Erin said they have support from SWMLC, YMCA and others, but this is mostly verbal and moral support as many organizations are facing tough times with cash flow right now. I noted that the campaign website says they have raised over \$151K (of \$250k goal) from 497 donors. She mentioned that they have received grants from the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation and the Jim Gilmore Foundation, and have grant requests submitted to other foundations.

I mentioned that we are not a large, rich organization with funds to distribute and would only be talking about a couple hundred dollars at the most. She said that any amount is really appreciated, noting that they have received gifts as low as \$2, and anonymous gifts too. There are different levels of giving listed, e.g., acorn, seedling, sapling, etc.

Erin stated that they do not intend to own the property and are discussing who or what will own

it. A supporter bought the land on their behalf to take it off the market, and SoK is paying them a yearly payment. They are fortunate that they have enough funds to meet next year's payment, but need to complete the fundraising to close the contract with the supporter. I didn't ask how long the contract goes, but got the impression it was longer than just next year.

They have discussed how to recognize donors. At the minimum, they are looking at listing names on the campaign website. I asked about plans for a plaque or sign or something in the future, and she says they haven't gotten beyond mentioning it since they don't intend to own the property and don't know what, if any, sort of recognition/signage/etc. will be appropriate on it.

Erin offered to 'visit' our meeting and make a presentation, if we wanted one.

c) Wild Ones National-Donation. A motion to donate \$100 to National was rejected.

6) New Business. None.

7) General Announcements

a) At next week's meeting Neil will tell the membership to expect an email about the upcoming election that explains the online voting process.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49

>>> Next Meeting: Wednesday December 16, 2020; 6 PM on Zoom

Submitted by David Riggs, Secretary