

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of March 17, 2021; 7 p.m.; Zoom Meeting

Present: Alysia Babcock, Ruth Caputo, Jessie Davis, Sharon Dever, Ann Fraser, Mike Klug, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, Margo Rebar, David Riggs, Neil Sikora, Dave Wendling.

1) Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:05.

2) We approved the minutes of February 17, 2020.

3) We approved the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$12,056.70. We received \$309 from National in last quarter from membership fees.

4) Committee Reports

a. Publications. Kim will pick up 500 fliers containing this year's programs tomorrow from the printer. 200 will be distributed by Margo to members. Anyone willing to distribute some to appropriate places, tell Kim how many you need and she will see that you get them. We decided to include a flyer with plant orders.

Kim needs more articles for the newsletter for the May through July issues. Please consider writing something and spread the word of this opportunity to others who might be willing to contribute.

b. Facebook (Jennifer) – no report

c. Operational Guidelines. Neil reports that the new small group continues to have good discussions and the process continues to move forward. The plan is to present a draft of the entire plan to the Executive Committee rather than piecemeal.

d. Membership. Margo has identified some possible volunteers to assist with membership duties, but is still in discussions with them.

e. Kalamazoo Environmental Council. Sharon reports that the Earth Day organizers are looking for videos to be included in the Earth Day program. Either as a 30-60sec video put together by us, or an interview which would be edited down to about 5 minutes. We have an informal coalition of people to start working on this: Kim is willing to receive prose from members and put it together. Ann agreed to help with the video set-up, and to make a Google folder where we can upload appropriate photos. Alysia, Paul, Dave and Mike will contribute.

f. Hospitality. Kathy is obtaining estimates for new banner

g. Outreach and Education. Noel is finalizing documentation of various resources for Outreach and Education with the goal of presenting it to the group in April.

h. Programs. Ruth reports that we are all set for Tom's program next week. Paul will do the introduction.

For this year's plant exchange at Tom's house on June 6, Tom wants to have appointments for 6 different time slots, with a maximum of 15 people each (to make social distancing easier). The details of how this will be implemented are being worked out. Plants for the exchange must be dropped off earlier in the week, prior to the day of the sale.

The Programs Committee will start meeting again in April to start planning for the 2022 program. We welcome suggested topics.

i. Plant Sale. Dave and Alyisa report that the online pre-order plant sale is coming together with new payment methods and order methods. They plan to start accepting online orders on April 5, and complete orders by May 15. Chad's list of plants that he has available for this year is in hand. Randy Counterman will have a sale of woody plants in conjunction with our sale. The details are still being worked out, but he will deliver his plants directly to the customer (not as part of our plant pickup) and we will receive 25% of his sale price.

Ann has a draft version of the online order form in testing. It includes plant selection details, with pictures from Chad's web site, pollinator kit description and order detail, credit card or Paypal payment options, and selection of times to pick up the order. Pickup times will be limited as to the number of individuals at any one time and varied to allow social distancing. Jason, Ann, Kim and Alysia have worked with Dave to make these major changes.

The Executive Committee expressed their amazement at all these changes and their profound appreciation for the enormous effect that has gone into this project.

j. Community Projects. Paul reports that Axtell Creek project has a new plan to more effectively control purple loosestrife and reed canary grass. They will attempt to establish trees and shrubs to shade out some of the invasive species.

k. Site Visits. Dave will start site visits in April, beginning with four people who are left over from last year. Full social distancing and masking protocols will be observed. Information regarding site visits will be on Facebook, the website, and in Seedlings.

l. Monarchs. Mike reports that overwintering Monarch numbers were down from last year. The fear at this point is that milkweed and nectar plants in southern states were seriously impacted by the cold weather. Mike's milkweed seeds have germinated and transplanting will begin next week.

Several programs are planned for PCCI this summer. Also, PCCI and KAWO will be including Monarch/Pollinator garden starter kits as part of their plant sales. Milkweed plants should be ready for purchase at the plant exchange and there will be seed and literature available

The Wild for Monarchs committee plans to assemble and have a zoom meeting very soon.

5) No Old Business

6) New Business

a. The Mentorship program has not been taken advantage of for some years, so Dave will no longer offer it. Notice of it has been taken off the web site. Dave has provided Jessie with Mentorship information and guidelines for possible future use.

b. The Volunteer Committee plan is under discussion.

c. We agree to support the Kalamazoo Environmental Council annual Earth Day celebration with a \$250 donation.

d. We declined to sponsor the Portage Youth Advisory Committee Earth Day celebration.

e. We agreed to a \$100 sponsorship of the PCCI Over the Creek and Through the Woods Trail Run, which will be held on September 25. The decided not to sponson the other programs at PCCI.

7) General Announcements. Registration for the Zoom general meeting next week is required. The link is now on the web site. At the meeting Jessie will say a few words about the plant sale and site visits. She will also invite people to consider writing articles for the Seedlings newsletter.

8) Jessie is working on a vision statement for KAWO, and asks that members of the committee think about what we want to do going forward, including being more inclusive of people who come from a wider diversity of backgrounds. Note that the local "mission statement" must be straight from National. However, we can, and want to develop our own vision of how we are implementing that mission here in Kalamazoo.

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

>>> Next Meeting: Wednesday April 21, 2021; 7 PM; Zoom Meeting

Submitted by David Riggs, Secretary