

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of Wednesday May 19, 2021

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

- 1) Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:02.
- 2) We approved the Minutes of April 21, 2021.
- 3) We approved the Treasurer's report.

4) Committee Reports

-Community Projects. Paul reported that we planted Swamp White Oak, Ninebark and Button Bush along Axtell Creek. The next projects are Tom's yard in preparation for the plant sale and the Kalamazoo Public School site, which has had continuing problems due to people driving over plants.

-Plant Sale. Dave and Alysia reported that plants are in short supply from Chad, so they had to cut the sale short by one week. The Monarch Kits will not be delivered this Friday and Saturday, instead they will be delivered in June (several details are still to be worked out). The plants that we have available (which plants will be available is still not clear) will be picked up this weekend as scheduled.

-We have complicated problems with Paypal concerning verification of delivery and other issues. Paypal has caused many difficult problems that Kim has been fighting to work through. But many things are still not resolved. We have about \$7000 tied up in Paypal and we are facing a deadline for resolution of the problems. This situation could also make it difficult to give refunds for plants that were paid for but we were not able to deliver.

-Membership. Jason provided a full report of his research into what other Michigan chapters are doing and items that were discussed at the "Sit and Sip" event with National. We have 159 current members, including 34 new members this calendar year.

-Monarchs. Mike reported that they will deliver 45 Monarch/Pollinator kits to PCCI this week. They will hold milkweed plants for KAWO kits when they become available. The Gilmore garden clean up and chipping is complete, and the signage has been replaced.

-Programs. Ruth has everything ready for the May 26 meeting "How Utility Rights-of-Way and Their Management Can Support Native Plants and Pollinators" by Ashley Bennet. Ann will introduce Ashley. The Program Committee is meeting May 18 to discuss next year's programs.

-Publications. Kim will step down as Seedlings Editor at the end of this calendar year, but she will remain the chair of Publications. She will help with the transition to a new editor. We discussed who might be able to help with writing, photography, and layout as well as general editorship.

Ann will be working on the new website later this summer and will be contacting people to help and is looking for ideas about the new website. There are technical issues with the software and formatting, and in addition there are general design issues that need to be addressed.

-Site Visits. Dave has received 32 requests to date. It seems that several people have become members in order to have a site visit. Alysia and Dave have already completed most of the visits, and the remainder should be finished in June. They are finding that people have more and more knowledge of the benefits of native plants which motivates them to reach out to us to help them get started.

5) Old Business

KAWO's Mission, Vision, Objectives and Values. Kim sent in a full page write up of her thoughts. Jason concurred with Kim's point about the importance of involving everyone.

6) New Business

-KAWO Conflict of Interest Position. We developed our own statement some years back. Neil will send us all a copy of the statement for us to read and indicate our acceptance.

-We agreed to use Once Stop Promotion as our vendor for our new banner. They offer the lowest price: \$85 for a 9.5x3ft banner, and have satisfied customers. It will fit under our canopy. We agreed to use the Monarch Butterfly image.

-We approved selling the "Using Native Plants" book to the Grand Rapids chapter, and other Michigan KAWO chapters for \$15 per book for orders of up to 25 books and \$12.50 for orders greater than 25 books, not inclusive of shipping charges.

7) General Announcements

Kim told us about the Kalamazoo Children's Native Playscape park area adjacent to Bronson Park. We might want to get involved. Kim will find out more and let us know more details.

8) Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

>>> Next Meeting: Wednesday June 16, 2021; 7 PM; Zoom Meeting