

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of June 16, 2021, via Zoom.

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

1) Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:03.

2) We approved the minutes of May 19, 2021.

3) We approved the Treasurer's report. The current balance is \$16806.50, not including the still unresolved plant sale and Paypal situation.

4) Committee Reports

a. Fundraising/Plant Sale

There have been a host of problems this year, reportedly including a boom in interest in native plants, and weather problems, and COVID, which impacted all the native plant suppliers in our region. In addition, we implemented an entirely new system for the plant sale and Dave trained a new crew to take over the sale. All of these factors apparently contributed to the current obscurity of where we stand financially. In particular, we have pending refunds of unknown amount; we do not yet have an invoice from our supplier; and there are still problems with Paypal.

The Plant Sale committee is working hard to clarify the situation and will report back as soon as possible.

Tomorrow's plant delivery list is still unclear, and there may be refunds coming up after the final round of plant delivery. For the coming weekend, many people on the committee cannot be there so we need 3 people to help tomorrow afternoon for preparation, and two or three more people for Saturday for curbside pickup at Jessie's house, starting at 7am.

We briefly discussed if we should reconsider how plant sales fits into our vision and how we might adapt to our changed situation. Dave agreed to take this discussion to the committee.

b. Membership. Jason reported that there are 193 current active memberships (ignoring for the moment some complexities about memberships having more than one person).

National has dictated that local chapters may not accept membership fees. This was announced in the latest National newsletter. It also appears that how donations are handled has changed. Jason has asked National how we can be sure that a donation for our chapter gets to us. National has added many features to its membership services, including email reminders and an "Exit Survey" to elicit comments about why the member is leaving.

Jason will continue to work through all the changes and give a summary of all we need to know.

c. Hospitality. Kathy has picked up the banner and is exploring the possibility of getting another smaller one that will fit on a table.

d. Programs. The plant exchange went well. Having people come in shifts worked as planned. Mike and Ilse distributed all the plants they brought. The exchange brought in many new people.

e. Monarchs. Mike delivered 150 Milkweed and literature kits to Dave. The Monarch Display at Plant Exchange was well received and succeeded in placing all the plants. Mike has been discussing summer events with PCCI.

f. Outreach and Education. The Committee will be working closely with the Monarch Committee for tabling and other events. The remaining supplies from the PPO Committee have been transferred to OE. There are no tabling events scheduled at this time.

g. Community Projects. Paul reported that due to some confusion and miscommunication, only two members showed up to prepare for the Plant exchange. However, Tom had hired some help and with a few last minute preparations on Sunday, the place was in good shape for the Plant Exchange.

The Committee worked at the KPS site last Thursday. The original plan was to replace some plants and possibly add a few new ones. But since Hidden Savanna is closed, we were unable to get plants and we ended up just weeding. The next workday is scheduled in a couple of weeks.

h. Site Visits. Dave reported that 33 site visits have been completed, including two done over the phone. One of the phone consults wanted to visit a members yard with specific garden types and this was arranged. We will probably get a few more requests over the summer and fall.

The site visit total was about twice the average number of prior years. Many stating that they want to plant pollinator gardens. Some have already read Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy and were inspired by him. Some were referred to us by other organizations.

i. Kalamazoo Environmental Council (Sharon) - no report

j. Operational Guidelines (Neil) – no updates

k. Communications/Website (Ann) - no report

l. Facebook (Jennifer)- no report

m. Publications (Kim) - no report

5) Old Business

a. Four people have not yet replied to agree to the Conflict of Interest Statement. Neil will remind them tomorrow.

b. Both the Mentorship program and Volunteer Committee are still unstaffed.

6) New Business

Noel suggested that we consider making videos of our knowledgeable members giving talks about their experience with native plant installations. Such videos would help to involve new people, especially the younger generation. We do have a Youtube channel which holds our Zoom presentations. We could use this method to add new talks.

7) We agreed to attempt to take care of things by email instead of meeting next month. However, if Jessie thinks a meeting is necessary, especially concerning financial issues with the plant sale, we may have to meet.

8) Meeting adjourned at 8:09

>>> Next Meeting: only if necessary, Wednesday July 21, 2021; 7 PM; Zoom Meeting

Submitted by David Riggs, Secretary