

KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of September 15, 2021

Present: Alysia Babcock, Jason Ballew, Ruth Caputo, Jessie Davis, Ann Fraser, Ilse Gebhard, Mike Klug, Quyen Edwards, Kathy McGoff, Paul Olexia, Margo Rebar, David Riggs, and Dave Wendling.

1) Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:04.

2) We approved the minutes of July 21, 2021.

3) We approved the Treasurer's report. Note that the current balance of \$10,084.29 does not include the \$7372.22 in available (but not released to us) funds and \$175.76 on hold in the PayPal account.

4) Old Business

a. Kim has had to step aside from Paypal. Ann, Margo and Jason will combine what they know and if necessary ask Kim for help to resolve the issue of Plant Sale funds still retained by Paypal. Jessie will continue to ask this group every two weeks for an update.

b. Comments about this year's Plant Sale from the Plant Sale team were distributed to the committee.

c. We earlier voted via email to give Kim a sympathy gift of native plants, which will be delivered later this week.

d. Mel Luna is taking over Seedlings from Kim. The status of the Publications Committee was not discussed.

e. The Fall Plant Exchange at Jessie's house went well. Altogether 25 active members came to pick up plants, 7 expired members and 17 non-members. The leftover plants were donated to KAWO Community Projects and to Friendship Village (those were distributed by Ilse.)

5) New Business

a. Quyen Edwards introduced herself, and discussed the efforts she is making at the Portage District Library to install more native plants at the main library site, which is now being renovated. We approved Quyen Edwards to fill KAWO's open At Large board position.

b. Quyen described the new Seed Library of the Portage District Public Library. Quyen is asking members for donations of native plant seeds to add to the library. On Saturday Oct 16 at 2pm the library will host a talk by Tom Small about native plants. We expressed our appreciation of Quyen's work and look forward to exploring ways to supporting tht work.

6) Committee Reports

a. Hospitality. We authorized Kathy to purchase both a 4ft and a 6ft banner, for a total cost of up to \$150.

b. Community Projects. Paul reported that the committee completed its agenda, spending the last two workdays at the Kalamazoo Public School Administration parking lot planting site, removing weeds and collecting seeds for the proposed Plant Propagation workshop next January.

c. Wild for Monarch. Mike and Carol continue to supply "boxes" with literature and packets of seed. We are now supplying six sites. This year we gave out 1400 Milkweed Plants, and 1200 seed packets. The fall Monarch event was canceled.

d. Outreach and Education. Jason offered to put together a brochure for Dave's site visits based on Noel's data in the spreadsheet Noel circulated.

e. Programs. Ruth circulated a report detailing her ideas about ways for KAWO to be involved in the Kalamazoo Natural Features program.

f. Membership. Jason reported that only about a third of recipients are actually opening the Seedlings email. Jason will look for ways to make sure the mailings are going to people who actually read them. In addition, Jason will work on a system to send a simple email just to remind people of the upcoming general meeting.

g. Plant Sale We discussed what kind of plant sale we want to have, and what kind of uses we envision for the funds we raise from the sale. There was no formal conclusion about either topic, but the majority of the group does want to continue raising money via a plant sale of some kind, and to explore new uses for whatever funds are raised.

7) General Announcements

Ann is looking for someone to take over setting up and running Zoom for some of the future online meetings. Jason will talk with Ann about this task.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

>>> Next Meeting: Wednesday October 20, 2021; 7 PM. Zoom

Submitted by David Riggs, Secretary