

## KAWO Executive Committee Minutes of November 10, 2021

Present: Alysia Babcock, Jason Ballew, Ruth Caputo, Jessie Davis, Ann Fraser, Ilse Gebhard, Ruth Caputo, Mike Klug, Quyen Le Edwards, Mel Luna, Kathy McGoff, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, and Dave Wendling.

1). Jessie called the meeting to order at 7:04pm (while commuting in her car from Ann Arbor).

2). The minutes of the Oct. 20, 2021 were approved as distributed. Due the absence of the Secretary, Paul foolishly volunteered to take the minutes at this meeting.

3). Although Margo was unable to attend, her Treasurer's Report for Nov., 2021 was approved.

### 4). New Business

A. 2022 budget – there was no discussion of the topic due to the absence of the Treasurer. The proposed budget for 2022 projects a deficit of approximately \$6,500.

B. Glen Park – Paul briefly outlined a discussion between the Stewards of Glen Park and KAWO regarding plans for a commemorative bench honoring Tom Small that is to be placed in the park . A motion to approve (and continue with) these plans passed.

C. Plant Sale Review Team – Ann, Jason, Kim, and Noel – The group has met several times to plan the Plant Sale for 2022

i. The format for the sale for 2022 will be similar to that of recent plant sales

ii. The date of the sale will be June 11, 2022

iii. Several (5-6) vendors have been contacted as sources for plants. At least one vendor has offered to provide plants at 15% below retail price.

iv. A major challenge being addressed is the location of the sale. The site must provide some security for the storage of plants for a two to three-day period. There also must be space to display plants and it must be accessible to accommodate vehicular traffic. It also might need to accommodate a large tent.

v. Jason suggested that it would be advantageous to have an I-pad available to facilitate payments. He noted that this likely would require wi-fi access, potentially adding yet another qualification for a suitable site.

vi. The team has not reviewed the proposed 2022 budget line item for the plant sale, but casual perusal indicates it is adequate as submitted.

#### D. KAWO leadership concerns – Paul

Paul expressed his concerns about the welfare and future of the Chapter, considering that there are no candidates for the offices of President, Vice President or Secretary (the latter later resolved, see below) for 2022. This suggests a weakness and potential instability for the future. He mentioned that the Grand Rapids Chapter experienced a similar situation a few years ago and had the standing President appoint a “Steering Committee” to focus on the future of the chapter and work to develop plans to get through the crisis. Should such a group be organized for KAWO, it might be advantageous to have a past President chair it. Considerable, but inconclusive discussion ensued. Jason suggested that such a committee might be able to assist the Executive Committee in the coming year since the full complement of officers does not appear to be available. Some concern was expressed that such a procedure does not occur in our Operating Guidelines. It was noted that there is nothing in our Operating Guidelines that addresses the situation we are in currently. A motion to table the discussion until a future date was passed by a majority (not unanimously).

#### E. Committee Reports –

i. Noel (O & E) - The only Committee report that had been submitted prior to the meeting was from the Outreach and Education Committee. Noel reported that an extensive list of resources has been compiled. She reported on a

presentation to the Portage Library by Tom Small, which was recorded, was excellent and she would like to add access to it among her resources. Ouyen said that it might be possible to set up a link to the Library's recorded talk.

ii. Kathy (Nominations) – suggested that detailed descriptions of Executive Committee positions and responsibilities be sent to all KAWO members in an effort to educate the membership and somehow recruit or attract new volunteers from the general membership to submit their names to fill open positions on the Executive Committee. Apparently inspired by this suggestion, Quyen volunteered to stand as a candidate for Secretary for 2022, much to the relief of all.

G. General discussion on increasing membership involvement in leadership and operations of the Chapter followed. In the discussion, Paul noted this topic might become focus of the suggested "Steering Committee". Mike pointed out that traditionally there has been an expectation that individuals would "move up" through positions in the Executive Committee to take on important leadership responsibilities over time and with experience. Noel mentioned that this expectation is not stipulated in the Operating Guidelines. There was some sentiment that such an expectation did not require specific, formal stipulation in the guidelines and that should not be an impediment. While there is some optimism that a greater appeal to the membership might result in more candidates for the Executive Committee, others noted that it does not seem likely that we could obtain strong candidates for the President or Vice President positions from individuals from the general membership who lack experience of having served on the Executive Committee previously.

H. Elections – Ann generously volunteered to set up a system for the up-coming election for Executive Committee positions similar to that used last year.

G. Glen Park/Tom Small commemoration – Ilse

Ilse outlined some of the discussions and plans that have occurred and the future possibilities for potential activities related to the recognition of Tom Small. Current thinking is that there may be a "remote" meeting via zoom, involving several individuals, both current and from the past, who have worked with Tom and who can provide "testimonials". The plan is to set up this event for winter, later this year or early next year. Given the "covid" situation, an indoor program seems unlikely. Moreover, an event on zoom would provide an opportunity to involve individuals who don't reside in the immediate area. Jason suggested that January might be a better time than December to hold such an event, thereby avoiding Holiday activities. There was sentiment to plan the event for January which also can provide more time to complete plans for the event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted (with apologies for any missed items and comments),

Paul Olexia,

Secretary pro tempore