

## Agenda

### KAWO Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Zoom

#### Present:

Jason Ballew, Ruth Caputo Quyen Edwards, Ann Fraser, Ilsa Gebhard, Mel Luna, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, Margo Rebar, Gail Simmons, Bill Rose

#### Absent:

Jessie Davis, Sharon Dever, Mike Klug, Jennifer Laforest, Kathy McGoff, Neil Sikora, Dave Wendling, Tom Small

1. Call to order by Jason at 7:03 PM; Changes to the agenda.

Ruth announced that she had heard from the United Methodist Church and KAWO will be able to hold its April meeting there in-person. We also have the option to hold our Executive Committee meetings in person at the church, to be discussed.

Jason asked for a discussion on the role of the President following Jessie's email at the end of the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of February 16, 2022 (Quyen) – Report Attached  
Paul asked about the format of the meeting notes which Quyen is doing a little differently than David used to. She will make sure to include motions, seconds, and approvals as well as “sign” her name to the final approved monthly minutes.  
Motion to approve minutes by Ann, second by Paul, Motion passed.
3. Treasurer's Report & Approval (Margo) – Report Attached

Discussion regarding Memorial Donations, acknowledgment letter and newsletter article. The group was in agreement that memorial and general donations should be acknowledged. Mel said that there can be an article in Seedlings quarterly or twice a year.

Jason emphasized that the 25% deposit for WildType plants for the sale had been made.

Additions to the Treasures report – Kim asked if expenses for printing and design work for publications had been accounted for? Margo said no, she would make an adjustment to the March Treasurer's Report and resend it for approval.

Ann said that we are expecting a refund for the website domain since it is now hosted by National and she will follow up when that is complete.

4. Old Business
  - a. Request to open a KAWO CafePress Shop (Quyen)  
Quyen reported that she had heard back from Lisa Olsen, Chapter Liaison, to say that she recommended waiting to start a Café Press site. National is working on rebranding and updating the logo and this most likely will include a national online store where customers

could choose the national logo or their chapter's logo. More information will be sent out when they know more.

## 5. New Business

### a. Children's Nature Playscape at Bronson Park (Kim/Quyen)

The Children's Nature Playscape will be free to the public, intentionally inclusive, ADA-compliant, and barrier-free. It will welcome children and families of all abilities and socioeconomic situations to learn, grow, and play together while experiencing nature. We know that children who engage with nature develop the environmental values to become the future stewards of the Earth who will preserve the diversity and wonder of nature for future generations. Access to nature, or its lack, is a public health issue. We can reduce health disparities by creating and promoting the use of natural areas where more children can learn and play, and where families can improve their physical and mental health by safely engaging in active living. Learn more here: [www.KalamazooPlayscape.org](http://www.KalamazooPlayscape.org)

Bill Rose, former Director at Kalamazoo Nature Center and member of the Playscape Steering Committee gave a presentation about the project. The Playscape has been in-progress for years, but was delayed by COVID. The group is finally ready to move forward. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, March 22 at noon. The first phase should be complete by June 2022 and phase 2 would be completed by summer 2023.

Other supporters of the Children's Nature Playscape include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo Boys and Girls Club, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Douglas Community Center, and downtown churches. This project will provide a natural place for children in the downtown area to play and will include native plants.

Bill asked for KAWO support through financial donations or volunteer time. They are looking for volunteers as greeters at the playscape, for plant maintenance, and for educational programming. KAWO EC thanked Bill Rose for his presentation.

Motion made by Mel to move forward with involvement in the Children's Nature Playscape including a \$500 donation for purchasing native plants, second by Ilse, all approved.

Quyen, Mel, and Kim plan to attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Programs (Ruth) –

For the March 23 meeting “Invasive Jumping Worms: The Impact of a New Soil Invader”. Mike Klug will introduce Brad Herrick. Ann Fraser will be the Zoom host. The Program Committee will meet April 13 to start work on the 2023 program.

The native plant propagation workshop that was scheduled for January 29 has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 25 at WMU. Details can be found at <http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/propagation-workshop/>

### b. Outreach and Education (Noel) –

Earth Day Participation in Community Events

We have been asked to table at the Paw Paw Library Earth Day Celebration and Portage Green-a-Thon (Sunday May 1 from 11am-3PM). Noel followed up that she completed the

application and Gail Simmons will represent KAWO at the Portage event.

c. Website (Ann) –

The KAWO website (kalamazoowildones.org) has been migrated over to National's web server. That part went well. There is one temporary glitch with the info@wildones.org email address – messages won't reach us because National's server isn't set up to handle mail (including forwarding it). This can be remedied but it will take 60 days. In the meantime, the contact address is changed to kalamazooreawildones@gmail.com on the website and direct people to that address for the time being. This is the email address that info@wildones.org emails end up at anyway, so those checking KAWO email won't have to look in a different place. More details can be provided at the EC meeting if needed.

7. Miscellaneous Items

Jason reviewed the two options Jessie had presented via email in moving forward as President of KAWO. EC agreed that ultimately it is Jessie's decision if she is able to continue, but we would welcome her to return in her role and do our best to support her and get her back up to speed.

8. Adjournments

Jason adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM

>>> The next meeting: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 – 7PM – Zoom

**WildOnes Natural Landscapers, Ltd Mission:**

*WildOnes: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration, and establishment of native plant communities.*

**KAWO Vision:**

*To restore and sustain biodiversity through education and the practice of landscaping with native plants.*

Submitted by Quyen Edwards, Secretary