

KAWO Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2022– 7:00 PM – Zoom

Present:

Jason Ballew, Ruth Caputo, Jessie Davis, Quyen Edwards, Ilsa Gebhard, Mike Klug, Kathy McGoff, Noel Ocen-Gorgone, Paul Olexia, Kim Patrie, Margo Rebar, Gail Simmons, Dave Wendling

Absent:

Ann Fraser, Mel Luna, Neil Sikora, Tom Small

Quyen will include the KAWO Zoom link registration page in the future.

1. Call to order by Jessie at 7:07 PM; Changes to the agenda made below.
2. Approval of minutes of March 16, 2022 (Quyen) – Report Attached
Motion to approve minutes by Jason, second by Noel, Motion passed.
3. Treasurers Report & Approval (Margo) – Report Attached
Missed line two – Please change to April. Expenses this month included the honorarium for our speaker and the previously approved donation to the Children’s Nature Playscape. Jason requested that the committee budgets be broken out quarterly (March, June, Sept, Dec) so committee chairs can see what remaining balance they have to spend. Margo will do that moving forward.
4. Old Business – None.
5. New Business
 - a. Membership Survey (Jason)
Jason said he is almost done with the survey. Thank you for feedback from those who proofread and made suggestions. It is 11 questions on Survey Monkey. Targeted to members only (196). A second survey with some adjusted questions will go to non-members (900). We are looking to gauge their interest in the organization and left space for suggestions in a comment box at the end. Will update description to include how many questions are in the survey.
 - b. Discussion about projector (Dave)
We have a projector that we share with the Botanical Club. You need HTMI cables to plug it in at the church. This is a back-up system as the church has one now and it is looking for a new home/someone to keep it. FUMC will show Ruth how to use their system. Dave and Ruth and Kathy (who keeps all the hospitality items will keep it) will make an appointment at FUMC to run through use of the backup. Note: Neil also knows how to set up the backup projector.
 - c. At the in person program next week, Gail will welcome the group with the same information she shares over Zoom. Noel will have a few minutes at the beginning to introduce the Homegrown National Park information and the sign-up sheet for site visits. Ilse will introduce the speaker.

6. Committee Reports

Ruth – Programs

For the April 27 general meeting “Monarchs as a Flagship Species: Can Conservation Focused on One Species Benefit All” by Karen Oberhauser.

We will be meeting at Kalamazoo First UMC for the April 27 general meeting. Since this is our first in-person meeting for some time, arrangements have been complicated. Ruth left a message at FUMC to confirm that we will have the proper set-up. (She’ll check again early next week.) Dave Wendling won’t be at the April 27 meeting and Ruth hasn’t been able to find anyone else to run the AV equipment for the meeting. In her message to FUMC, she asked if there were someone there who could do it.) Dave will bring KAWO’s projector (shared with the Botanical Club) and associated cables to Ruth. Neil sent KAWO’s microphones to Ruth.

Several activities have been transferred to the Program Committee that logically belong there, but the PC does not have the resources to do them. Please see the list below. If we don’t get volunteers, at least some of them won’t get done.

WANTED: Someone to serve as facilities contact for First United Methodist Church. It would include contacting the church before each meeting to confirm the set-up, acting as liaison with the church if there are questions/concerns, and sending the paperwork at the end of the year to request the rooms etc for the following year (given a copy of what was used previously).

WANTED: Someone to handle the AV system for meetings at First United Methodist Church.

WANTED: Someone to keep our projector (shared with the Botany Club) and microphones and bring them to general meetings as needed. If unavailable, make sure equipment is there for the meeting.

WANTED: Someone to act as the connection between the Program Committee and Publicity. It would involve reminding PC members when articles are due (given a list of which PC member is the contact for each event). And then forwarding the information to those providing support for publicity (e.g. Facebook, website,...)

The Program Committee met on April 13 to start work on 2023 programs.

Update: confirmation that FUMC will have it set up in the proper configuration standard 200 chairs and some tables. Microphones will also go to Kathy. Payment to church for space. Is the EC going to continue meeting on Zoom? No, at least through June. Would need to have a month notice to use the church. Will revisit in May also after the plant sale follow up about having an EC meeting get together at Jason’s 45 minutes for

Paul Mike Tom Ann Ruth – ideas for programs

Noel – Outreach & Education

Dave, Mel and Noel are working on materials to support the Homegrown National Park initiative. A brochure introducing Dr. Tallamy’s program and a flyer listing the Ecoregion 8 Keystone plants will be available for our members at the 4/27/22 meeting.

If there is an opportunity at the meeting to make announcements, we should make the members

aware of the program and suggest they pick up a brochure.

Dave - Site Visits

Dave has started site visits for this year. It was posted on Facebook where there was interest and will be in the next newsletter. Dave will miss the membership meeting but will have a sign up sheet there. Three site visits have been scheduled for members only.

Kathy – Hospitality

Hospitality's report is no food or drink will available at the April Program due to mask and social distancing requirements. We request that no outside food or drink be brought to the program.

Mike Klug – Monarch Group report: Thanks to the help of Cindy Vigneron, Margo Rebar, and Carol Klug, we now have 1,000 little Milkweed transplants in the Greenhouse. Plants will be available after our meeting on April 27th, Plant Exchange, and the Plant Sale. Another batch of plants will be available in the late summer and fall. Thanks also to all the folks who donated Milkweed seed for the project. Our first tabling event will be at the Paw Paw Library Earth Day Celebration on April 23rd. We will be restocking information boxes at all of our sites in the coming weeks. Mike noted that more swamp milkweed seedlings came from a surplus at Pierce Cedar Creek, as his did not germinate well this year. Please save flat trays for Mike.

Publicity - Remainder of bookmarks to bring to the meeting and flyers and plant sale items to the meeting April. Let Kim know if you need more of them sooner.

7. Miscellaneous Items

Gail will table at Portage Green-a-Thon. She is looking forward to meeting in person at the April program.

8. Adjournments

Jessie adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

>>> The next meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 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