

KAWO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 – 7:00 PM – Zoom

Present: Jessie, Jason, Gail, Quyen, Mel, Margo, Ann, Kim, Paul, Kathy, David

Guest: Chris Dilley

Absent: Noel, Ruth, Mike, Ilse

Register for meetings on the KAWO website at: <http://www.kalamazoowildones.org/business/>

The link will be the same for all EC meetings in 2022.

1. Call to order at 7:05 PM; Changes to the agenda.
Paul to comment on the program committee at the end of new business topic C.
2. Approval of minutes of May 18, 2022 (Quyen) –
Motion to approve by Kathy, second Margo. Motion approved.
3. Treasurers Report & Approval (Margo) –
Page 9. Questions about any expenditures. \$35 reimbursement from Kalamazoo Audubon Society as we shared expenses for the last program and they paid us the difference of half. Pennant banner will be relocated to Plant Sale expenses.
Motion to approve treasurers report and to change the \$274 expense to the Plant Sale by Kathy, second Paul. Motion approved.

4. New Business

a. People's Food Co-Op with Guest Chris Dilly

General Manager of PFC Chris Dilly said he was excited about hosting the annual Plant Swap. The native gardens on the property are looking especially gorgeous. They are working on a signage project to highlight the native plants on the property. (Tabled due to a poor connection and resumed via phone at 7:31PM.) The garden signage is 10-11 years old and was originally funded from a grant from the drain commission. Those signs are faded and we would like to rework it. They are working with Gina at Prairie Smoke for signage. He would like to have one big sign and 10-20 specific species (common name, latin name, plant needs) made. Would also have WildOnes logo and be consistent. He asked KAWO to put the People's Food Co-Op gardens on the Homegrown National Park map as a sponsor. We are also estimating that the signs will cost \$1,200. Would KAWO consider supporting it in the neighborhood of \$300-\$500? Jessie thanked Chris for his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Question from Kim: Can't the co-op as a non-profit register themselves? Chris said the co-op is not a 501-c3, and so it does not qualify for grants in that way. Question from Paul: Is it going to look like we are trying to get around the rules? Dave responded that as long as we are being transparent in what we're doing, I see no problems. Question from Ann: Has Kalamazoo Area WildOnes been a part of this native garden project? Chris said Kalamazoo Area WildOnes has been very involved in this project through-out, Dave has done tours of the garden, KAWO has had volunteers helping with the garden in the past. Margo said, I think it is admirable what PFC is doing and we often point people to the plants there. I think we should support their initiatives.

Motion to support PFC by registering their native garden on the Homegrown National Park Map by Kathy, second Dave. Motion passed.

Motion for financial contribution to signage was tabled. The Executive Committee would like time to review the budget. They clarified that the KAWL logo would be featured on the big sign and the garden would have its own website which would feature link to Kalamazoo Area WildOnes. The committee thanked Chris for joining the meeting, he departed at 7:48 PM.

Dave – Would like to start this discussion saying that we should support this project in the amount of \$500. Co-op has cooperated with us for the plant sale for many years, we benefit from their members coming to our sale. They are a partner of ours and he would like to support them. Kim suggested splitting the cost on the signs and give them half in the amount of \$600.

Jason said he would like to take a closer look at the budget and would like to table the conversation until after the Plant Sale. Would follow-up with an email vote.

b. Topic for discussion: Project Wingspan

After reading the background information, Ann wanted clarification about what they are asking for in support of the project. She and her students have had experience with Project Wingspan in the past and the students had to take on a lot of the responsibilities. There are a number of EC members who collect seeds for various projects, would we consider doing that for Project Wingspan as well?. Gail said we could let them write an article and members could reach out directly to them. Group was in agreement that volunteers are stretched thin. Gail will get more information and offer space in the newsletter.

C. Program Committee - Paul We had a programs committee meeting yesterday. Do we want to do anything to celebrate the 30th year of the spring plant exchange next year? River City is having Doug Tallamy coming in to speak for their 15th Anniversary. We need some clarification about the age of the chapter (25 years?) vs how long the plant exchange has been happening? Who will spearhead it and bring it to the EC? Kim and co-captain Jason will spearhead and bring suggestions to the group. We can allocate money in next year's budget for something larger scale.

5. Old Business

a. Review of WildOne's participation in the National Garden Clubs Standard Flower Show
at Wedel's July 22-23 (Noel and Mel)

Jessie will follow-up with the Flower Show person regarding details. Mel will follow up on Jessie's work email. If you need supplies, canopy, tables for the contact Kathy to coordinate.

b. Donating Plants to the Children's Nature Playscape (Quyen)

Updates from "Green Team" Head Gordon Bielby – the would be pleased to accept any donations of remaining plants from the plant sale. They are experiencing delays in supplies for the project, so planting cannot occur yet.

c. Update on KAWO signs (Quyen)

Quyen said that she had a 7x10 inch Homegrown National Park sign printed by SmartSign.com. It turned out ok, but at that size, the QR code is not scannable. It was \$12 including shipping. We can continue to look at local options for printing signs or provide an option like the Homegrown National Park website where there is a downloadable .pdf and members can get their own signs printed so we don't have to keep any in stock. Conversation on this topic will continue on a later date.

6. Committee Reports

Ruth – Programs

The Saturday, July 9 field trip to an oak savanna will take place at the Mac Cready Nature Reserve.

Car pooling hasn't been organized yet.

Planning for next year's programs continues.

Paul – Community Projects

Community Projects has been active now that the weather has improved, at least somewhat.

About year ago we had six volunteers for Community Projects. As it turned out, due to a variety of issues, two individuals were unable to help. Since then we have had a number of inquiries from mostly younger people who are interested in helping with our projects. Currently we have a list of fifteen people who are interested. Many of them have not had much experience with native plants so part of our mission has been to try to use our workdays as learning sessions as well as achieving our objectives at various sites.

Our first workday was to clean up at the "KPS" site. The next workday was to work on a planting at Northglade Elementary school. Several years ago a group from KAWO put in a planting there but it was neglected and in very poor condition. At the urging of Ilse Gebhart, we contacted the teacher involved and asked if she was interested in revitalizing the site, to which she responded in the affirmative. We have cleaned up the site, removed a number of invasives, and prepared the area for new plants. We were unable to get everything we wanted, but we were able to plant 30 plants from about a dozen different species. At the teacher's initiative, some of the students there assisted with the planting. And later, we received a number of "cards" and notes with drawings from some of the students and thank you notes. Mel is interested in publicizing these.

On June 14, along with some members of Stewards of Glen Park, we planted about 90 plants in an area that we have fenced off in the park to prevent deer predation. The park is rather heavily wooded so we planted mostly shade tolerant species, including a number of spring ephemerals. The soil at this site seems to have quite a bit of clay with only a relatively thin top layer of humus, so we will have to wait and see how the new plants survive. In addition to the plants were purchased, some were donated by members. Given the challenges of soil type and deer, we will monitor the site carefully to see how well the plants survive. If they are successful, we will try to expand the area in which we plant native species. In addition to a very high deer population there is an abundance of non-native species, including garlic mustard and myrtle (Vinca) among others. We plan to continue to work with the Stewards of Glen Park to improve the area.

Ann said she would like to commend them on their great work!

Noel – Outreach & Education

- Many thanks to Margo for subbing for me at the annual Plant Exchange. She did double duty and I really appreciate her help.
- Our next tabling event is the Plant Sale next Saturday, June 18th. Looking forward to good weather and a great turnout.

Dave - Site Visits

For Site Visits, there are 16 requests to this point. All are complete except for four, two of these are scheduled and the other two will be later in the summer. I think that Wild Ones is benefiting greatly from Doug Tallamy! On several of my site visits people are looking to landscape with native plants based on what they read in his latest book....Nature's Best Hope. They are turning to us to help them get started.

Ann had a friend who joined specifically for a site visit.

Mike & Carol – Wild for Monarchs

Thanks to Carol K., Carol H., Margo, Cindy and Laura the Gilmore gardens were weeded, some plants replaced and the gardens chipped. The new grounds manager is very enthusiastic about the gardens and has been very responsive to requests by the group. We gave out 5 flats of assorted Milkweed species at the Plant Exchange and 7 flats at the Sarett Nature Centers Plant Sale. To date we have given out nearly 1500 Common Milkweed seed packets and 450 pieces of Monarch information material. We will hand out Milkweed at the KAWO Plant Sale on June 18th.

Kathy – Hospitality

For the Spring plant exchange, Hospitality purchased 32 pkg cookies, 16 pkg chips, 24 pk water, 36 pkg Kind mini bars, 18 pk ice tea 10 pk pretzels, 12 pk Cheez-Its and a 5 pound bag of ice. Total cost \$78.12. Any remaining items will be taken to the Plant Sale and/or saved for the Fall Plant Exchange.

Jason – Membership and Plant Sale

Plant Sale and EC potluck July 9th 3-7 PM

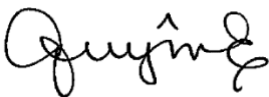
7. Miscellaneous Items – Ann dealing with national trying to change the domain and still having issues. Info@kalamamazoowildones.org email is expiring in two days.
kalamazooareawildones@gmail.com is the correct email

8. Adjournments

Paul made a motion and Kathy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

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

Recorded and Transcribed by,



Quyen Edwards, KAWO Secretary
6-15-2022