

KAWO Executive Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 7:00 PM on Zoom

Present:

Jessie Davis, President

Jason Ballew, Vice President

Margo Rebar, Treasurer

Gail Simmons, Secretary

Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)

Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)

Beth Bradburn (At-large)

Jessica Hagen (At-large)

Ann Fraser (Program Chair)

Mel Luna (Publications Chair, At-large)

Noel Ocen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)

Absent:

Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)

Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Chair)

Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Jessie Davis
2. Minutes of the March 15, 2023 EC meeting were moved by Kathy, seconded by Jason.
Approved unanimously.
3. The Treasurer's report was moved by Kathy, seconded by Noel; approved unanimously.

4. Old Business

- a. Zine publication Update – Mel will work with Jason, Jessica, and Beth on the final draft of the Zine. The goal will be to complete the Zine in time for the Spring Plant Exchange on June 4.
- b. Gail will circulate the existing language of our Conflict of Interest statement, along with proposed new language reflecting the previous vote to allow honoraria to members.

5. New Business

None

6. Committee Reports/Ad Hoc

- a. Membership (Jason) -- 1) Since last month's Zoom presentation, we have had (13) NEW members join KAWO! Current membership: 224 (up from 211 last month). Membership Drive: As of today (4/17), we have had 39 new members join, year to date. I expect a few more before next week's meeting. Therefore, we should have at least 50 of Tom Small's books at next week's meeting. I will be reaching out to these new members by week's end to remind them about picking up their book (or make alternate arrangements).
- b. Program Committee (Ann) -- We had a very successful launch to our first in-person program at Portage District Library, with 65 people in attendance. A big thank you to Quyen and other PDL staff for setting up the video and sound equipment and editing the video. The audio/video quality of the recording was excellent and we look forward to making these presentations part of our KAWO archive on YouTube.

Thank you to all those that helped with setting up/taking down chairs at the last program. For future programs, it would be very helpful if a few people could come early and others stay late to help with setup/cleanup so that PDL staff can focus on the AV system and library closing at 9PM. The library also asks that any food brought in be store bought to ensure it adheres to food safety regulations and allergen labeling. We are all set for the April 26 program, featuring Tom Noland speaking on "Growing Wildflowers from Seed". Ann Fraser will introduce the speaker.

- c. Outreach and Education (Noel) -- This has been a very busy Spring for tabling. Jessica & Noel tabled at PCCI on 3/24/23 for their Dinner and A Movie "Finding Wild in Your Backyard". About 60 participants. Noel tabled with Mike & Carol on Monday, 3/27/23, at a Hastings Rotary luncheon event. The event featured Doug Tallamy's video "Pollinator's Best Hope". About 50 participants. This event resulted in two separate invitations to April 22 Earth Day events in Hastings. We will only be able to attend one, but will maintain contact with the other group for future events. Mike, Carol & Noel participated in a Kalamazoo Poetry Festival

workshop on April 15. Mike and Carol prepared excellent materials for the event, which, although not large, was successful.

- d. Monarch Group. Mike tabled at the Hastings Rotary Pollinator Initiative meeting. Mike, Carol and Noel tabled at the Kalamazoo Poetry Festival and provided literature, terracotta pots, Monarda and Milkweed seeds. The Gilmore crew, Carol, Cindy, Laura and Joyce did some spring cleanup on the gardens. Thanks to Joyce, Laura, Margo and Cindy, and Carol and Mike we now have 1200 Milkweed plants transplanted and looking like they are going to be ready for the upcoming events in May. We will be tabling at the Hastings Earth Day event along with Noel and Gail. The Oshtemo library has been added to our list of locations for our Monarch Wild display boxes of literature and Milkweed seed. We now have material at seven sites. All sites will be restocked with material in the coming weeks.
- e. Hospitality (Kathleen) Based on food policy at the Portage District Library, all snacks at meetings will be prepackaged individual servings. The Hospitality Budget will cover the costs. Hospitality as an ample supply of disposable plates, cups, and cutlery for upcoming events including Spring and Fall Plant Exchanges.
- f. Community Projects (Paul) Community Projects had its first workday of the year at Axtell Creek April 14. We were assisted by students from the Montessori School who were brought to help lay down landscape cloth by Jessica. Thank you, Jessica.
- g. Site Visit (Dave) Site Visit report. I have received 7 requests for site visits so far and completed three. All new members. I will be looking for others to help with site visits. I would like someone who is willing to help organize the site visit requests and to assign volunteers to do the visits. I will still be doing the bulk of visits but would like some help. Margo, Mel, and Jessica all volunteered to work with Dave on site visits.
- h. Plant Sale (Jason) –
- The plant sale is 4 weeks from this Saturday!

- The Committee has been at work to finalize all the nitty-gritty details.
- Kim has been doing a bang-up job with the design of the banner, signs, posters, and t-shirts!
- Kathy has logistics nearly wrapped up, including a new-and-improved floor plan and easy-to-follow sales process signage!
- Ann has secured many volunteers, but we can always use more! She will have a volunteer sign-up sheet/form at next week's programming meeting.
- Harry helped create a wonderful cheat-sheet of Planting Tips that will go in the Swag bags.
- Swag bags to include sponsorship materials, free seed packet from Native Connections, Homegrown National Park flyers, PFC coupon, etc.
- Door prize: We will raffle off a door prize--compliments of Bell's Brewery--at 2pm (end of the sale).

7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. The next meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 7 PM on Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Simmons

KAWO Secretary

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.