

## **KAWO Executive Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

### **Voting Members 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)  
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)  
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Chair)  
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Two items were added to the agenda under "Old Business:" report on in-kind donations from the Plant Sale, and the tabled motion to approve purchase of photos.
2. The minutes of the minutes of August 18, 2023 were approved, with one amendment in item 6f, to reflect that photos for potential purchase could not be viewed. -- moved by Paul, seconded by Margo; unanimous.
3. The September Treasurer's report was approved. -- moved by Ann, seconded by Paul; unanimous. The September Quarterly report was approved with modification to reflect the specific amounts for the production of the 'zine. -- moved by Noel, seconded by Kathy; unanimous.
- 4. Old Business**
  - a. Request from Michigan Garden Clubs regarding HB4159 (Jessica) -- No action is required.
  - b. COI will be sent out by Gail with the next call for agenda items for October. EC members should reply and a record of each reply will be kept.
  - c. A motion was made not to purchase photos from a professional photographer. -- moved by Kathy; seconded by Paul. Passed unanimously.
- 5. New Business**
  - a. **Website (Ann)** Ann Fraser discussed the need for a new Webmaster and there was some discussion of possible alternatives. She indicated that it requires about 1 hour of work per week.

- b. **Informational Sign at KPS (Beth)** Beth described her proposed project. EC members presented ideas and indicated their support.
- c. **Asylum Lake Preservation (Noel)** Noel presented information about ongoing challenges with preserving this important nature area.

#### 6. **Committee Reports/Ad Hoc**

- a. Membership (Jason) Current membership status: 250 members. Jason will walk EC members through the process of accessing membership lists.
  - b. Program Committee (Ann) – The Program Committee continues its work on programming for 2024. We are also soliciting ideas for how we might celebrate KAWO’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next fall. You can send ideas to [afraiser@kzoo.edu](mailto:afraiser@kzoo.edu) or present them at the board meeting. Depending on the scale of the event, an ad hoc committee may be needed for event planning and hosting. Quyen Edwards has been providing invaluable multimedia support to KAWO during the monthly presentations at the Portage District Library. As a staff member of the PDL, she is being paid by the library for her time. She is not being compensated by KAWO. It was generally agreed that this presents no conflict of interest for KAWO.
  - c. Outreach and Education (Noel) -- Jessica was invited to give a Native Plant Workshop at Community Homeworks on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was well-attended by 13 very interested participants. Quyen and I donated plants that were given to the participants. Community Homeworks provides home maintenance instruction and guidance to low income homeowners, and has now expanded their instruction to include landscape advice. There was a table with KAWO materials displayed, and one of the participants took out a membership. Much thanks to Jessica for getting KAWO involved with Community Homeworks. It is hoped that this relationship can continue to grow. Jessica made a suggestion that we might prepare a document about navigating local weed ordinances.
  - d. Monarch Group (Mike) They are getting low on Milkweed Seeds and would appreciate donations.
  - e. Hospitality (Kathleen) No report.
  - f. Community Projects (Paul) Done for the year.
  - g. Site Visit Committee (Dave) To date the Site Visit Committee has completed 20 site visits. The committee could use some more volunteers.
7. Jessie made a few announcements, including attendance at the plant exchange, which was over 93 people with at least 27 non members. We need to make plans for a planning meeting, and harmonizing our bylaws with new bylaws from National.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm, moved by Kathy, seconded by Paul
9. The next meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 – 7 PM on Zoom