

KAWO Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Voting Members Present:

Jason Ballew, Vice President
Gail Simmons, Secretary
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Beth Bradburn (At-large)
Jessica Hagen (At-large)
Ann Fraser (Program Chair)
Noel Ocen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Chair)

Voting Members Absent:

Jessie Davis, President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer
Mel Luna (Publications Chair, At-large)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Vice President Jason Ballew, who presided.
2. The minutes of September 20, 2023 were approved; moved by Noel, seconded by Ilse. Unanimous.
3. The October monthly report was approved; Moved by Kathy, seconded by Beth. Unanimous

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. Ann presented the current slate of candidates for EC positions for 2024. Further calls for nominations will be made at upcoming general meetings as well as in the November issue of *Seedlings*, and elections will be held electronically. There is a need for another At-Large member of the EC.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee(s)</u>
President	Noel Ocen
Vice President	Quyen Edwards, Kathy McGoff
Secretary	Gail Simmons
Treasurer	Margo Rebar
At-Large (up to 4 positions)	Mel Luna, Jessica Hagen, Mike Weis

- b. Secretary Gail Simmons will be unable to carry out her duties during November and December due to upcoming surgery. In her absence, Ann will follow the info@kalamazoowildones email; Jason will Zoom-host the EC meetings on November 15 and December 13; Kathy will take minutes for those EC meetings.
- c. Members interested in contributing to the “Connecting Communities” podcast in November are asked to contact Noel.

6. Committee Reports/Ad Hoc

- a. Membership (Jason) – Jason gave a demonstration of how KAWO officers can access Membership rosters from the National website. Because Jason will step down at the end of 2023, there is a need for someone to fill the role of Membership Chair. In addition, in 2024 we will need to replace Ann as webmaster and Mel as Seedlings editor.
- b. Program Committee (Ann) – The Program Committee met this month to continue work on the 2024 program and discuss other business. We were joined by Noel Ocen. We are finalizing speakers, field trips and plant exchanges and can provide details upon request. All current members of the committee, except Ann Fraser, will continue with the committee; new members may be added. Mel Luna is willing to serve as chair.

The committee has two proposals to bring to the Executive Committee for consideration and a vote:

1. Monthly meeting start time

To ensure that cleanup can be completed before the 9 pm PDL closing time, the Program Committee proposes that all 2024 speaker presentations start at 6:30 pm instead of 7 pm. The meeting space is booked out for the entire evening, so availability of space is not an issue. Ann made a motion to this effect; seconded by Kathy. Passed unanimously.

2. Honorarium Rate

The Program Committee recommends increasing the honorarium rate for field trip leaders and program presenters to \$120 from the current \$100, beginning in 2024. The increase is suggested given the work involved to prepare a trip or presentation, and to help keep up with inflation. In the case of programs with more than one leader/presenter, we propose \$120 per person for programs with up to two leaders or presenters, and \$60 per person for programs with more than 2 leaders or presenters. In the case of members offering tours of their home gardens, we would not offer an honorarium. Ann made a motion to this effect, Gail seconded. Passed unanimously.

There were a number of other business items discussed: The Program Committee suggests that KAWO not print bookmarks next year. Half-sheet schedules could be printed for tabling events on an as-needed basis. That would allow for schedule updates to be incorporated as they arise. We will check with the Membership chair about having program reminders sent out 1-2 days before an event, to catch those who might have forgotten about an impending event. We have put together a *tentative* budget and will forward to the Treasurer. The committee also discussed ideas for the 25th anniversary celebrations. These included starting the year with a bigger name speaker in January (Zoom presentation; still in information gathering stages), inviting all members to a 'Picnic in the Park' in June, and hosting a banquet in October (more limited seating). Proposals for those are in the works. The program committee would like to know if a plant sale is planned, or if alternative fundraising events are being considered as these would need to be incorporated into the 2024 program schedule.

- c. Website Committee report – (Ann) Ann Fraser has three willing volunteers to learn website administration, Barb Sagaro, Beth Bradburn and Mel Luna. She will meet with them in the coming weeks/months to pass on her working knowledge of WordPress.
- d. Outreach and Education (Noel) – No report.
- e. Monarch Group (Mike) -- No report.
- f. Hospitality (Kathleen) -- No report.
- g. Community Projects (Paul) – Projects complete for the year.
- h. Site Visit Committee (Dave) – No report.

There were several announcements of upcoming matters:

- 1. The Spring 2024 Plant Exchange will be hosted by Tom Small; The Fall 2024 Plant Exchange will be hosted by Jessie Davis.
 - 2. There will be a long-term planning meeting sometime in December.
 - 3. Committee structures have shifted over time; there is a need to update the By-Laws to reflect current practice.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm; moved by Kathy, seconded by Paul.

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.