

## **Minutes**

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

February 21, 2024

### **Voting Members Present:**

Noel Ocen, President  
Quyen Edwards, Vice President  
Margo Rebar, Treasurer  
Gail Simmons, Secretary

Beth Bradburn (Newsletter/Website Editor, At-large)  
Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President  
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)  
Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)  
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)  
Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)  
Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)  
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)  
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)  
Mike Weis (At-large)  
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)

### **Guests Present:**

Jason Ballew  
Tyler Bassett

1. The meeting was called to order by ~~President~~ Noel Ocen at 7:10 pm
2. The Minutes of January 17, 2024 were unanimously approved. Moved by Margo, seconded by Quyen.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for February 2024 was unanimously approved. Moved by Paul O., Seconded by Beth.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. The EC agreed not to sponsor the upcoming Kalamazoo Nature Center Robin Wall Kimmerer Event after learning that there would be very limited opportunity for KAWO to publicize its own mission and programs at the event.
- b. Gail put out a final request for updated Committee Rosters.
- c. Quyen made a second request for EC Bios and Photos for the website and Facebook.
- d. The EC agreed to allow Quyen to pursue a project with a local artist who may receive grant funding to produce artwork for use by our chapter.  
[New Business item a was considered at this point in the meeting, to accommodate guest Tyler Bassett's time constraints.]
- e. Noel requested that the EC consider who may be candidates for Complimentary Memberships in the coming year. We have three slots available for 2024.
- f. Mike W. provided an update on the Hays Park Project. We were invited to consult with Rotary, which has adopted the park. We are trying to assure that they don't make mistakes and manage to preserve the remnant forest that exists within the park.

#### 5. New Business

- a. Tyler Bassett informed us about upcoming changes to the Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council <https://wmich.edu/asylumlake/council>. Currently KAWO has some voice on the Council as a member of the Kalamazoo Environmental Commission (KEC). Tyler has represented the KEC to the Council. However, the KEC has been otherwise inactive in the community. Tyler proposed that KAWO cooperate in the dissolution of the KEC and then stand as a full member of the Asylum Lake Policy and Management Council. He feels that KAWO, as a long-time and consistent voice for preservation of native habitats, could be more effective on the Council, and this would allow him to step back from the role as he pursues other projects. The EC agreed to take part in these discussions.
- b. Noel announced that starting with the March meeting, there will be tabling for KAWO Committees at KAWO events to try to engage more members in the work of KAWO committees.
- c. Beth requested Weed Ordinance information for our website.
- d. Margo made a proposal that we sponsor the Pierce Cedar Creek lecture series at the level of \$100. This is the first time PCCI has offered the opportunity to sponsor an activity other than their 'run'. Moved by Gail, seconded by Quyen. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Ester) – We have 266 members, six of them new in February. Jason has formally passed on all Membership responsibilities to Ester.
- b. Program Committee (Mel) – The Program Committee met to discuss this year's programs on 2/13/24. There are no changes to our budget. There are three changes to the programs:

- i. Beth Moody's presentation has been moved to May 29th
- ii. Logan's field trip to inventory bumblebees is cancelled on June 29th.
- iii. Mike Weis will now be leading the field trip to Indiana Dunes instead of Nathaniel Pilla on July 27th. There will be no bus, just carpooling.

Our 25th Anniversary year kick-off presentation on Zoom, Prairie & Savanna Plants for Pollinator Gardens with Neil Diboll, had 80 attendees. The recording on YouTube has already had 394 views. Pints & Native Plants had 35 folks in January, and 45 folks came out in February. Coming up on Feb. 28th is a Zoom presentation with David Karowe, *Effects of Climate Change on Native Plants*. Currently we have no updates on the proposed 25th Anniversary Picnic, but plan to discuss this again at our next EC meeting. Of note: The first in-person program in March has been met with uncommon interest. The Facebook event shows that 312 people are interested and 17 are "going." This tells us that there are a LOT of new gardeners out there looking for guidance.

- c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) – The Committee held a successful event, "Birds and Blooms," at Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery. Jessica will be meeting with Andrea from United Way to discuss KAWO participation in a native garden project with the Urban Alliance.
  - d. Monarch Group (Mike K.)
  - e. Hospitality (Kathleen)
  - f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – Paul L. reported on his meeting with Kevin Oles, a teacher at Paw Paw Middle School and will propose ways that KAWO can support his project. Quyen proposed that the PDL Seed Library may also be able to support them.
  - g. Site Visit Committee (Dave)
  - h. Publications (Mel) – no report, but Mel notes that the "Native Plant of the Week" feature on Facebook is becoming popular.
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
8. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The Next Meeting: March 20, 2024 on Zoom