

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

March 20, 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)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)
Mike Weis (At-large)
Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)

Voting Members Absent:

Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)

Guests Present:

Ann Fraser

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. The Minutes from February 21, 2024 were approved unanimously – moved by Ilse, seconded by Beth.

3. The Treasurer's Reports for March 2024, and for first quarter 2024 were approved unanimously – moved by Mike W., seconded by Dave.
4. Old Business
 - a. Noel reminded the EC about tabling to recruit volunteers for KAWO Committees at KAWO events, particularly the upcoming presentation on March 27.
 - b. The EC agreed to use the existing budget for the Site Visit Committee to supply the new mentorship group as well. The two groups are effectively combined.
 - c. The Connecting Communities Podcast, featuring KAWO members, has been released. [Connecting Communities - Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones Turns 25! : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)
 - d. Progress is being made on the Mentorship Committee; more information will be available at the next EC meeting.
 - e. Quyen presented an update on the Artist Grant Application, particularly on the cost of various items featuring the art that we might produce, and the EC discussed the choice of species to be featured.
 - f. Noel presented the awardees for five Nancy Cuthbert Small Distinguished Service Awards. The awardees are:
 - i. Mike Klug
 - ii. Carol Klug
 - iii. Paul Olexia
 - iv. Dave Wendling
 - v. Ann FraserThe awards will be formally presented to the recipients at the June 2 Plant Exchange. The EC heartily congratulated these deserving awardees.
5. New Business
 - a. Noel requested assistance to recruit and organize volunteers for the upcoming Plant Sale.
 - b. Noel asked the EC to consider who might take over the Wild for Monarchs Committee as Mike and Carol step back
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership (Ester) Since the last meeting, we have had 13 renewals and 2 new members. Of the 16 memberships that expired since last meeting, 8 of those expired on 3/2/24 to support what Mike Klug said about event sign ups and the free book. Ester is reaching out to non-renewals to see what she can learn about their status.
 - b. Program Committee (Mel) – No report.
 - c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) –
 - i. Jessica met with the Andrea from United Way on Monday, March 18 to discuss potential sites for an educational garden at Urban Alliance (Edison Neighborhood). This project is in early stages and is unlikely to become part of Community Projects this year.

- ii. O&E will be Tabling at PCCI Friday, 3/22, for Dinner and a Movie Event - Homegrown Conservation
 - iii. O&E is In the process of updating tabling brochures. I plan to add a brochure on invasive species management and native gardening for the birds. MSU has a spotted lanternfly handout <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/spotted-lanternfly-a-colorful-cause-for-concern>
 - d. Monarch Group (Mike) –
 - i. Milkweed seed is planted and we hope for good germination.
 - ii. Carol Klug, Cindy Vigneron, Carol Hand, and Laurel Bruska had a good controlled burn on the retention basin gardens at the Gilmore Car Museum.
 - iii. We will table at the Homegrown Conservation Event at Pierce Cedar Creek Institute on March 22nd.
 - e. Hospitality (Kathleen) -- The Hospitality Committee has purchased lemonade, bottled tea, water, candy, cookies, popcorn, potato chips and pretzels for upcoming programs.
 - f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – Submitted orders for Glen Park and a couple of other projects to Hidden Savanna and will also be ordering from Wild Type.
 - g. Site Visit Committee (Dave) – progress is being made; more information at the next meeting.
 - h. Publications (Mel) – no report
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- a. Beth continues to take updates for Seedlings up to and including the 1st of the month.
 - b. Noel reported that we have new banners and a limited supply of new brochures from National featuring the new logo.
 - c. Gail requested that the EC consider using Google Calendar to help the EC keep track of deadlines – she will do an experiment with some EC members.
 - d. Noel announced that Mike Weis will become our representative to the Asylum Lake organization.
 - e. EC members should be sure to wear their nametags at the next program.
 - f. Our Domain Name has been renewed for five years.
 - g. Ann gave a demonstration of the web interface for the upcoming Plant Sale.
 - h. There was discussion of publicity and other aspects of or the Plant Sale.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes approved unanimously by the EC at the April 17, 2024 meeting
Submitted by Gail Simmons, Secretary