

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

April 17, 2024

Voting Members Present:

Quyen Edwards, Vice President (presiding)

Margo Rebar, Treasurer

Gail Simmons, Secretary

Beth Bradburn (Newsletter/Website Editor, At-large)

Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)

Ann Klobucar (Mentorship Chair)

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)

Mike Weis (At-large)

Dave Wendling (Site Visit Chair)

Voting Members Absent:

Noel Ocen, President

Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President

Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)

Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)

Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. The Minutes from March 20, 2024 were approved unanimously – moved by Ilse, seconded by Dave W.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for April 2024 was approved unanimously – moved by Gail, seconded by Paul O.
4. Old Business
 - a. Volunteer needed to take over the Wild for Monarchs Committee – there was discussion of the need to find creative ways to continue the work of this committee after Mike and Carol step away. It was generally agreed that there is no one obvious who can take over the production of milkweed seedlings. Among the ideas:
 - i. Continuing to promote the effort in Seedlings and Blog posts
 - ii. Using the Portage District Library seed library, which Quyen manages, as a way to continue to collect milkweed seeds

- iii. Recruiting knowledgeable members (Joyce Leppard and others) to give talks and to table on behalf of the effort

5. New Business

- a. Quyen shared an update on the ongoing Plant Sale from Ann Fraser.
- b. Update on Mentorship/Site Visit Committee (Ann K. and Dave W.) – Ann shared an outline of the Mentorship Process that she and Dave W. have developed:
 - i. Training Mentors – they have 7 or 8; they would like perhaps a dozen. Each mentor should have 1 or 2 mentees/new members each, possibly distributed geographically to minimize the amount of travel. Dave will be the trainer.
 - ii. Names of new members will be distributed to the mentors
 - iii. Mentors will contact their Mentees via phone and/or email to welcome them to KAWO
 - 1. Learn about the goals of each Mentee
 - 2. Offer a site visit and an information packet
 - 3. Plan either a site visit or another face-to-face meeting (coffee?) to review the information packet, teach them about resources available on our website and other internet locations
 - 4. Invite the Mentee to tour the Mentor's own yard and/or to tour other KAWO members' yards.
 - iv. Mentors will follow up with Mentees in 6 weeks to 2 months to check in and see if they have more questions.
 - v. Mentors will greet Mentees at KAWO in-person meetings and introduce them to other members.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Ester, read by Gail) –
 - i. For March: New members: 5; Renewed members: 21; Expired memberships: 23
 - ii. For April so far: New members: 8; Renewed members: 19; Expired members: 4. Ester will be sending Dave new members information on the first of every month so he can connect with them on a site visit.
- b. Program Committee (Mel/Quyen) – There were 105 attendees at our March in-person presentation, and a small crowd at Brewery Outré. Summer Pints and Plants will happen on the 1st Thursday of each month, May through August, but no meeting in July.
- c. Outreach and Education (Quyen) – KAWO has been invited to participate in Kalamazoo Garden Festival at the Expo Center on May 18, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is hosted by MSU Extension Master Gardeners. New Member Aedin Clements has volunteered to table.
- d. Monarch Group (Mike) – Over 1,000 plants are currently growing, more will be planted for Battle Creek.
- e. Hospitality (Kathleen) – no report
- f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – First work day for the year is on April 24 at Glen Park.

- g. Site Visit Committee (Dave) – no report, see above New Business.
 - h. Publications (Mel) – Weekly posts on FB are getting more notice; flyers out for Plant Sale. Gail is checking on whether NowKalamazoo is still publicizing our meetings.
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- a. Wild Ones National is starting a “Certify Your Habitat” program.
 - b. Quyen will be sending a proposal for the art project via email, since the deadline will be the same day as our next EC meeting.
 - c. Quyen is putting together garden tours for the summer – please volunteer if you want to be included.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by Gail Simmons, Secretary

Approved Unanimously at the EC Meeting of May 15, 2024