

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

June 19, 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
Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)
Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair)
Mike Weis (At-large)

Voting Members Absent:

Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Ann Klobucar (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)
Dave Wendling (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)

Guests Present:

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. The Minutes from May 15, 2024 were approved unanimously – moved by Noel, seconded by Mike W..

3. The Treasurer's Reports for Month Year, and (for first quarter 2024) were approved unanimously – moved by Kathy, seconded by Beth.
4. Old Business
 - a. Plant Sale Pickup, Final Thoughts, and Virginia Bluebells (Noel) – Plant sale pickup went well; we sold 1,970 plants, up about 500 from last year. The online format, with plants provided by Hidden Savanna, seems to be viable. There were two complaints concerning the sale of Virginia Bluebells by individuals who were unfamiliar with the growth habits of this spring ephemeral. We may need to provide more extensive information about this species if we wish to sell it in the future.
 - b. Fall Plant Exchange/25th Anniversary party. (Noel & Jessie) – There seems to be little enthusiasm for a special event for the 25th anniversary, in line with information we gleaned from a survey a couple of years ago in which members did not seem interested in social events. Instead we will concentrate on making our fall programs, especially the fall Plant Exchange, a bit more robust with refreshments and small ways to acknowledge our anniversary. Kathy has volunteered to obtain pricing for special cakes and other food for these fall events, so we can properly allocate budget. It was noted that National may require us to hold an in-person election for officers this year, in which case we can use that meeting as part of the celebration as well. Noel is following up with National, since the in-person format excludes some members, while email plus paper mail can capture most everyone.
5. New Business
 - a. Volunteer for Computer Services, Claudia Toro (Noel) – a member who needs to volunteer from home has computer skills to offer. Among the possible roles she could play are Zoom hosting, updating parts of the website, helping with the end-of-year reporting, and learning how to use the online Plant Sale system.
 - b. Garden Tours of Community Projects? (Noel) – In the past we have not offered a "Garden Tour" of any of our Community Projects sites. It was generally agreed that in upcoming seasons this would be a great way to publicize our work. The Program Committee and Community Projects Committee should work together to include this in next year's programming.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership (Ester) – We have 253 members. We lost 15, but gained 19 renewals and 10 new members.
 - b. Program Committee (Mel)
 - i. Beth Moody's program filled the library at the end of May with 88 in attendance.
 - ii. The Spring Plant Exchange brought roughly 100 people out (including volunteers) and over 500 plants were distributed. Not to mention the award ceremony for Mike & Carol, Dave, Ann, and Paul.

- iii. The first round of Member Garden Tours were met with great enthusiasm - between fifty and sixty individuals visited the three yards in the Westwood neighborhood. Pints and Plants continues to gather passionate people from the community to cross pollinate across organizations and interests. This month roughly 30 people were in attendance.
 - iv. Mitch Lettow's field trip to Portman Preserve was also a success - the 25 attendees had a wonderful time, we saw lots of wildlife and native plants, and the weather was perfect!
 - v. Looking ahead to July, Paul MacNellis is leading a field trip to a savannah restoration site in Kalamazoo, the second round of open garden tours takes place in Portage, and Mike Weis is leading a field trip to the Indiana Dunes.
 - vi. The programming team is beginning to plan out prospective speakers and activities for 2025 so let one of us know if you have suggestions!
 - c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) – Jessica tabled at the Kellogg Biological Station BioBlitz, which was a robust family event and which might serve as a model for events we could host. [Gail presented a Webinar on Landscaping for Birds to the KBS Birds+Coffee Zoom event on June 12.]. Jessica will also present another native plant workshop for Community Homeworks in the near future.
 - d. Monarch Group (Mike) – no report.
 - e. Hospitality (Kathleen) – no report.
 - f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – We've performed 3 workdays since the last EC meeting--Glen Park, plant exchange prep, and Northglade. A total of 12 people from our list have participated, plus 7 people from partner organizations. Over 200 purchased and donated plants have been planted, primarily at Glen Park. We're continuing to assess the condition of plants and document the species at each site. The next scheduled session is 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 26 at KPS Administration building.
 - g. Mentorship/Site Visit Committee (Ann & Dave) – no report.
 - h. Publications (Mel) – no report.
7. UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTION ITEMS
- a. June 29th Dave Wendling Fern Field Trip (SWMLC)
 - b. July 13th Paul MacNellis Field Trip to 1st Street Savanna Restoration Project
 - c. July 24th Member Garden tours – Portage
 - d. July 27th Field Trip: Wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes – Mike Weis (please carpool)
 - e. August 5th Member Garden Tours
 - f. Coordinating Bylaws with National – NB: must we have in-person elections?
 - g. Complimentary Memberships for next year – proposals at August meeting.
 - h. Metal Plant tags from Audubon for Community Projects are available Noel will forward info. to the committee.
 - i. Kathy will get pricing for goodies for 25th celebratory events
 - j. Kathy will prepare a proposal for raffle of Fiesta Ware with a wildlife theme.

- k. The Program Committee will include KAWO's community projects in future garden tours.
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS –
 - a. Gail announced that she will not run for re-election as Secretary for personal reasons. We need to recruit someone to run so that Gail can help them learn what needs to be done.
 - b. PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO EC MEETING IN JULY. The Next Meeting: August 21, 2024 on Zoom

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m., Moved by Paul O., seconded by Kathy.

Submitted by Gail Simmons, Secretary

Approved by the Executive Committee on August 21, 2024