

Minutes

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

September 18, 2024

Voting Members Present:

Noel Ocen, President
Quyen Edwards, Vice President
Margo Rebar, Treasurer (joined later)
Gail Simmons, Secretary

Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President
Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)
Jessica Hagen (Outreach and Education Chair, At-large)
Ann Klobucar (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)
Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)
Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)
Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)
Mike Weis (At-large) (joined later)

Voting Members Absent:

Beth Bradburn (Newsletter/Website Editor, At-large)
Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)
Mel Luna (Program Chair, Publications Chair, At-large)
Ester Ruohonen (Membership Chair) (resigned effective...?)
Dave Wendling (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)

Guest

Claudia Toro

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. The Minutes from August 21, 2024 were approved unanimously; moved by Kathy, seconded by Quyen.
3. The Treasurer's Reports for September 2024 and Third Quarter 2024 were approved unanimously, both were moved by Kathy and seconded by Paul O. [note that these items occurred later in the meeting to accommodate Margo's time conflict]

4. Old Business

- a. Fall Plant Exchange (Noel & Jessie) – The Exchange will occur in standard fashion at Jessie and Bill’s home, 4404 Glenrose Terrace, Portage, MI. A motion was made by Gail and seconded by Paul O. to approve Kathy’s (see Hospitality report, below) request for \$291.97 to cover refreshments for the exchange. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Election Process for 2024 elections (Kathy) (deferred to next meeting)

5. New Business

- a. Membership Committee (Noel) – Ester Ruohonen needs to resign (has resigned?) her position as Membership Chair. Noel introduced Claudia Toro who will assist with these duties until we can choose a new membership chair.
- b. Status of Board Positions for 2025 (Noel). Gail will not be running for re-election as Secretary. Jessica may not run for Outreach chair due to her personal situation (she will let us know soon about her decision). Mike and Carol had previously announced their resignation as chairs of the Monarch Committee but have recently met with Ilse to make a plan for how the work can continue. Margo may possibly wish to step back as Treasurer, but there is no timeframe at the moment.
- c. Update on Asylum Lake Council (Noel, Mike W.) Noel has sent a letter of acceptance for KAWO’s position on the Council. Mike Weis will be our representative, and Paul Laferrier will be the alternate. Due to the timing of Council meetings, Mike will not be able to make the current set of Pints and Plants meetings but Quyen indicated that we’d avoid that conflict when scheduling Pints and Plants in the winter.
- d. Complimentary Membership for Justin Gish and others (Noel) – Justin Gish (City of Kalamazoo Sustainability Director) has accepted our offer of a complimentary membership. We can nominate two more individuals or organizations, a suggestion is the owner of Brewery Outré.
- e. Birds and Bees Protection Act, NRDC (Noel) – Noel will reach out to our NRDC contact and will explore the possibility that we might have a joint program with the Audubon Society about the impact of “neonic” insecticides.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Ester) -- no report. Noel asks that we think about what might go in a digital new member packet, which we have not had for a number of years.
- b. Program Committee (Quyen) – We had 57 people for the Seed Collecting tour at WMU’s Parkview Campus – a real success.
- c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) – Jessica will attend the Desserts with Discussions program on KAWO’s behalf at the Kellogg Biological Station; Quyen can set up (but not man) the O & E table at next Wednesday’s KAWO presentation.
- d. Monarch Group (Mike) – No report.
- e. Hospitality (Kathy) – I am recommending this menu for Fall Plant Exchange. For the 30th Plant Exchange, we spent 477.79. I will be requesting approval for

additional monies for purchase.
 Large Pinwheel Tray 64.99
 Medium Vegetable Tray 39.99
 Medium Fruit Tray 73.99
 1/2 Sheet Cake 70.00

TOTAL 246.99

adding
 1/4 Sheet Cake 45.00

TOTAL 291.97

- f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) – The Community Projects Committee has completed its work for the year.
 - g. Mentorship/Site Visit Committee (Ann K.) – We have one new member site visit/mentoring session coming up; Ruth Caputo has been assigned. Ann expects more interest come springtime.
 - h. Publications (Mel) –
7. UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTION ITEMS
- a. The Annual Conflict of Interest Statement has been distributed to all EC members. Please respond via email by Sept. 30, 2024 indicating that you have received and understand the Statement.
 - b. Outreach and Education will be tabling at the WMU Sustainability Day event on Friday September 27.
 - c. Our first live program of the fall takes place on Wednesday Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Portage District Library, [Trees: Their Identification, Their Roles, and Our Relationships with Them](#) • Larry Cornelis, Naturalist and Conservationist. Tom Small can introduce the speaker; Noel will make a general welcome and also a call for people to step up to fill open positions in our upcoming election.
 - d. The Fall Plant Exchange is Sunday September 29. People with plants to share can drop off on Friday at Jessie’s home.
8. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- a. Noel will be duplicating and distributing Jumping Worm info for the Plant Exchange.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved at the October 16, 2024 meeting
 Submitted by Gail Simmons