

## **Minutes**

Executive Committee of Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones.

October 16, 2024

### **Voting Members Present:**

Noel Ocen, President

Quyen Edwards, Vice President

Margo Rebar, Treasurer (joined later)

Gail Simmons, Secretary

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

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

Mike Klug (Past President, Wild for Monarchs Chair)

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

Kathy McGoff (Hospitality Chair)

Paul Olexia (Past President, Community Projects Co-Chair)

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Jessie Davis, Immediate Past President

Ilse Gebhard (Monarch Watch)

Ann Klobucar (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)

Paul Laferriere (Community Projects Co-Chair)

Mike Weis (At-large)

Dave Wendling (Mentorship/ Site Visit co-Chair)

### **Guest**

Claudia Toro

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. The Minutes from September 18, 2024 were approved unanimously. Kathy moved, Paul O. seconded.
3. The Treasurer's Report for October 2024 was approved unanimously. Kathy moved, Beth seconded. Margo reminded Committee Chairs to submit proposed 2025 Committee Budgets to her, so they can be included in the discussion for the November meeting and voted on in December.
4. Old Business

- a. State of the Chapter Elections – Noel noted that we have an urgent need for more volunteers among our membership both to fill open positions on the EC (Secretary, and at least one At-Large position) and to get involved in an increasing number of activities that KAWO is being asked to participate in. Mel pointed out that there is a need for EC members to approach specific individuals to see if we can get more people to get actively involved. Possibly some of the positions need to be broken down into smaller chunks to make them more do-able. Mike mentioned that this has historically been a difficult problem for the organization.
  - b. Joint Program with Audubon Society of Kalamazoo (ASK) – we will likely participate in a joint (probably online) program with ASK for a presentation by the NRDC about the dangers of Neonics. Details are TBD.
  - c. Election Process for 2024 elections (Kathy) – After discussion, it was generally agreed that we will try to work with the following timeline, Kathy will prepare materials and Beth will use our current email system to distribute materials for nomination and voting to KAWO members.
    - i. Using email notification:
      - 1. email sent to all members before October 20 with position descriptions
      - 2. nominations close November 10 at 5:00 pm
      - 3. ballots available via email November 11
      - 4. voting closes November 18 at 5:00 pm
      - 5. results announced at November 20 program
    - ii. Gail will be happy to train a new secretary in January.
  - d. Gail has spoken with Steve Ellis of Spark Magazine, who will work with Beth going forward to re-publish some of our Seedlings articles in Spark, which is a paper publication targeting Seniors, distributed throughout the Kalamazoo area. Gail has written an introductory article about KAWO for publication in the November issue. Spark is published every other month.
  - e. Conflict of Interest Statements are now complete.
  - f. There is ongoing discussion about putting together an electronic “new members packet”.
5. New Business
- a. Beth proposed that members could place "Classified Ads" in Seedlings --nothing for sale, obviously, but along the lines of "I have extra four-inch pots to give away" or "Come and dig up my extra golden ragwort," things like that. Interested readers could respond with their contact info to the KAWO email address and I would forward the responses to the advertiser. This could be a “members only” benefit. There was also discussion of publishing a members-only directory.
  - b. Noel moved, Kathy seconded, and it was passed unanimously, for KAWO to make a donation of \$200 to NowKalamazoo online news magazine, where we have been placing ads and getting good publicity.
6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership (Claudia, Noel) -- Since last month we have had 13 renewed memberships, 7 expired, and 2 new members. We need to start contacting new members.
  - b. Program Committee (Mel) – The September field trip, with Laura Moss collecting seeds at WMU’s campus, had 57 enthusiastic seed collectors in attendance, and 75 people came out to hear Larry Cornelis's in-person presentation at the library, and there were also 70 people at this year's fall plant Exchange. Next Wednesday will be our second to last in-person presentation for the year, and the Programming Committee will be meeting in November to finalize programs for 2025. We have a full roster of presenters and plan to offer more garden tours and field trips, trips after an overwhelmingly positive response to these events this past summer. Both downstairs rooms are reserved at the library next year, which gives us the space to invite like-minded groups to table and engage with folks before each presentation each month. So it's a really good opportunity for cross pollination and mutual aid within our community. So be thinking about, you know, organizations that you'd like to be greeting our attendees to our programs and ways that we can funnel them into like minded organizations. And, you know, keep the web growing. This might include Sue Hoedapp’s Kal-Haven Trail group, Asylum Lake, Audubon, Friends of Woods Lake, etc.
  - c. Outreach and Education (Jessica) –
  - d. Monarch Group (Mike) – Cindy Vigneron, Laural Bruska, and Carol Klug put the Gilmore Gardens to bed for the growing season.
  - e. Hospitality (Kathy) – no report
  - f. Community Projects (Paul O./Paul L.) no report
  - g. Mentorship/Site Visit Committee (Dave and Ann K.) –
  - h. Publications (Mel) –
7. UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTION ITEMS
    - a. Margo needs to track down an outstanding invoice from Hidden Savanna Nurseries, for the Stewards of Kleinstuck project.
    - b. Committee Chairs should submit proposed 2025 Committee Budgets to Margo asap.
  8. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  9. ADJOURNMENT - the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

The Next Meeting: November 13, 2024 on Zoom

NOTE: The EC meeting and General meeting are both one week earlier than usual in the month of November.