

KAWO Executive Committee Meeting Notes - January 15th at 7:00 on Zoom

Present: Noel Ocen, Quyen Edwards, Margo Rebar, Mel Luna, Mike Weis, Beth Bradburn, Jessica Hagen, Ilse Gebhard, Mike Klug, Claudia Toro, Cameron Lockwood, Paul Olexia, Paul LaFerriere

Absent: Kathy McGoff, Dave Wendling, Jessie Davis, Carole Offerman

1. Call to Order by President Noel Ocen at 7:00 PM

2. Reading of Minutes from November 13, 2024 for discussion and approval.

Meeting for December 18, 2024 was cancelled.

Motion to approve minutes made by Paul O, second Margo. All in favor, minutes approved.

3. Changes to the Agenda

Please add an agenda item under New Business for a Donation/Sponsorship Request from Pierce Cedar Creek.

4. Special Presentation by Justin Gish, Sustainability Planner, City of Kalamazoo and Destiny Stetina, MHC Corps

Justin's position at the city is to focus on environmental issues and a community wide sustainability plan. In 2019, the City of Kalamazoo made a declaration regarding the Climate Emergency. He is the "squeaky wheel" in all city departments.

Justin started the City of Kalamazoo's No Mow May initiative to raise awareness of its benefits. He is still working on the best way to relay the messaging on how best to garden for pollinators.

Justin will connect KAWO to Mike Stout of the Michigan Waterway Stewards. They are working on trash cleanup and invasive species removal along the Kalamazoo River.

Destiny is part of Michigan Dept of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's second cohort of the MI Healthy Climate Corps (MHC Corps)! She will be working to create events in the community educating about sustainability, including an emphasis on mindful lawn care practices.

5. Reading of Treasurer's Report dated December 31, 2024 for discussion and approval.

Reading of Fourth Quarter Financial Report for discussion and approval.

KAWO received a donation of \$1,000 and 50 copies of Tom and Nancy Small's book.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made by Beth, seconded by Paul O. All in favor, treasurer's report approved.

6. Old Business

Complimentary Membership for Olivia Mendoza was approved by email vote

Complimentary Membership for Joyce Leppard was approved by email vote

Update on Olivia Mendoza artwork

- Ideas for places to display it? We will consider displaying the original at Brewery Outre or PDL to increase community interest prior to raffling it off.

- Anyone heard of Zeffy? Zero fee platform, relies on purchasers to "tip" to pay for the service. Will consult Olivia for approval of using this service. Olivia was on GVSU and talked about her KAWO collaboration. She is the artist at Brewery Outre this month, too!

7. New Business

Introduction of Cameron Lockwood and Carole Offerman

Donation for City of Kalamazoo Earth Day

Motion made by Mike W. to approve a \$200 donation to Kalamazoo Earth Day. Seconded by Paul O. All in favor, motion approved.

Information Packet for City of Kalamazoo Earth Day

Approval to cancel Post Office Box - EC was in favor of discontinuing use of the PO box when the rental expires in July 2025.

Donation to Pierce Cedar Creek Institute. In February 2024 we donated \$100.00.

Motion made by Mel to donate \$150 to Pierce Cedar Creek to sponsor a trail run. Seconded by Margo. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of Committees

Membership - Claudia

In 2024 KAWO had 233 membership renewals. 136 membership expirations which is a retention rate of 63%.

Program - Mel

January Program by Ashley Cole-Wick on Zoom.

February Program William Kirst from Adapt Ecology on Zoom.

March Program Jessie Lincoln in-person at Portage District Library.

Outreach & Education - Jessica

Monarch Group - Ilse, Mike & Carol

Hospitality- Kathy - no report

Community Projects - Paul O. or Paul L.

Mentorship & Site Visit - Ann or Dave

Publications – Beth

9. Announcements & Action Items

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

Respectfully submitted by Quyen Edwards, KAWO VP and substitute Secretary