

KAWO Executive Committee Agenda
August 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM

Present: Noel Ocen, Quyen Edwards, Cameron Lockwood, Carole Offerman, Ilse Gebhard, Paul Laferriere, Beth Blackburn, Kathy McGoff.

Absent: Ellie Shenkar, Mike Weis, Mel Luna, Jessie Narda Davis, Mike Klug, Jessica Hagen, Ann Klobucar and Dave Wendling

1. Call to order by President Noel Ocen at 7:02 pm.
2. Changes to Agenda were Michigan Garden Club request for speakers and Noel's announcement.
3. Reading of Minutes from July 16, 2025 for discussion and approval. Motion to approve minutes made by Beth and seconded by Quyen. All in favor and motion passed.
4. Reading of Treasurer's Report dated July 31, 2025 were tabled.
5. Old Business

a. Fall Plant Exchange will be held at Crane Park on September 7th. Noel ask board members to volunteer. Quyen, Carole, Beth and Paul volunteered. Noel will contact Ann Klobucar and Margo Rebar about volunteering. Quyen will prepared new signage for the exchange. Beth will bring new logo banner. Plant drop off is 9 am to 12:45pm. Plant Exchange is 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Plants limited to 5 till 3:00pm. Quyen is bringing tables. Kathy is bringing canopy, 4 chairs and bottled water. Ellie will answering membership questions, selling books and signs and collecting donations. No restrooms are available in Crane Park. Noel suggested her is nearby and would be available. Quyen asked about early drop off of plants. Noel mentioned in Plant Exchange announcements to contact Wild Ones. Noel, Quyen and Carole volunteered for early drop off locations. Quyen will post on Facebook the early drop off information.

b. Complimentary Membership will be offered to Dr. Sara Tanis, Director of Sustainable Horticulture at KVCC Valley Hub. Dr. Tanis was a past speaker for KAWO program. Dr. Tanis is now working with Noel and Beth to provide articles about invasives which will be prepared by her students. These articles will be completed at the end of December and are intended to provide monthly columns for Seedlings for then following several months. Paul might have site supervisors who are not members. Kathy asked if Brewery Outré owner, Ted has been asked. Quyen will ask after he returns from vacation. Another suggestion for Complimentary Membership was Rachel Bair, Director for Sustainable Food Systems at KVCC Valley Hub.

c. Egle Complaint about disc golf course is closed. Portage Public Schools has verbally

promised to stop mowing the course. Quyen mentioned that we could talk with Portage Public Schools if KAWO was interested in assisting them in restoring wetlands.

d. Art Work Raffle for the Olivia Mendoza drawing would require a license and Zephy software. Quyen talked to Olivia about setting a value. Olivia suggested \$400.00 minimum. Grant Contract contains a clause specifying 50/50 split of proceeds for artwork. Quyen is considering an auction as an alternative. KAWO would have to advertise art to collectors throughout the community to reach minimum price.

6. New Business

a. Noel received an email from Michigan Garden Club about KAWO speakers. Noel sent the email to Executive Board, Tom Small, Tom Noland, Ruth Caputo and Gail Simmons. Noel asks if any others should be included. Ilse suggested Joyce Leppard and will talk to Russ about speaking.

b. Noel announced that she is not running for re-election for President.

7. Reports of Committees

a. Program Committee member Quyen reported the committee is finalizing 2026 schedule.

b. Outreach & Education had no report.

c. Monarch Group had no report.

d. Hospitality had no report.

e. Community Projects has no report.

f. Mentorship & Site Visits had no report.

g. Publications Chair Beth has added KVCC Community Life Enrichment Classes and will add Honorable Harvest Lecture Series to Seedlings. Problems with KVCC website in finding these programs & lectures. Beth will continued to list link. Postscript from Kathy use Valleyhub.kvcc.edu for accessing these classes and lectures.

8. Announcements & Action Items

Quyen mention KVCC Honorable Harvest Lecture Series organized by Christina Petroska. Quyen will participating on October 14th and Tom Small on November 11th. Next Lecture is September 23rd in classroom 233, MJS Culinary & Allied Health Building, 418 West Walnut from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Topic is Connecting To Place Through Urban Foraging by Lea Sevigny. Topic

for September 30th is Reconnecting: The Story of Michigan Waterways Through Indigenous Perspective. Preceding Lecture is Taps on Tuesday at 418 Restaurant on Ground Floor, MJS Culinary & Allied Health Building, 418 West Walnut opens at 5:00 pm. Quyen mentioned Portage Parks Terra Talks. Mike Weis is scheduled to speak at Terra Talks this fall. This is not on Portage Parks calendar yet.

Pints & Natives Plants at Brewery Outré on August 21st at 7:00 pm.

Paul offered to pick up plants from Wild Type Nursey in Mason on Friday, August 22nd.

Eastwood Garden Tour on September 5 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Plant identification & sorting for Fall Plant Exchange at Crane Park on September 7th from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm.

Fall Plant Exchange at Crane Park on September 7th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Crane Park Garden Tours at 2:00 pm & 3:00 pm.

9. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Kathy and seconded by Quyen. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.