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 **MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: April 23, 2020**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Robin Kutz, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

The agenda, treasurer’s report, March minutes and membership report were distributed ahead of time. Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the board unanimously approved the March minutes.

Treasurer: Walt reported that total assets and total net worth at the end of March was $57,839.99. We’ve received no additional grant requests. The approved donation to the 180th Street Marsh project is on hold at the request of Dakota County pending landowner deliberation about price.

Membership: Greg updated his email tally, reporting that we have 151 local members with about two dozen outstanding renewals that occur in April and May. He’s sent the email announcement about the ability to renew via the website and has received seven online renewals. We’ve also gotten two new members via the website, including one who would like to volunteer. Greg will follow up with an additional email, then a hardcopy notice to those whose memberships have relapsed. He will leave the board and membership chair in May, but work with a new person to smooth the transition.

Trumpeter newsletter: Greg said that he sent Becky the mailing labels on time. Steve reported via email that he has sent the email notices about the current edition. There was interest in having a summer edition because of all the spring trip cancellations.

Programs: Steve has rescheduled Chris Herwig for the April 2021 program. He suggested having a May virtual meeting and said he’d check with Audubon Minneapolis and other sources about their efforts to hold meetings virtually. Rob will check on the YouTube possibility; Matthew will check on doing it on our Facebook page, to which he has administrative rights.

Old business:

* Rob updated the board on the completed website redesign. Board members thought his suggestions to use Trumpeter stories on the site, to share the site’s news stories with our Facebook page (via Matthew), and for him to post new content to the site without checking first with the board. Rob reviewed Junebird Creative’s retainer proposal (up to two hours a month at $100 per hour) for any changes that MRVAC couldn’t make on its on. On Steve’s motion and Walt’s second, approval of the retainer was unanimous. Rob asked that if those with administrative access to the site let the board know when they made changes.
* Birdathon: Bob suggested creating a new model for the Birdathon that would involve more participants, not rely only on the few members who participate now, and avoid asking the same people for donations each year. There were a number of suggestions: a social distancing Birdathon; using a designated field trip such as the Hok-Si-La trip; using GiveMN on the website; a world series of birding; expanding to other parts of the year. Matthew will draft a proposal to be shared with the board.
* Rob reported that he had talked with Rita who told him there would be no Trumpeter Award this year.
* Rob expressed a concern that we have too many open chairs, that there are no job descriptions for board members and for committee chairs, and that there’s no structured way to recruit leaders. He suggested determining a system to recruit MRVAC leaders, including directors and chairs. Lee Ann volunteered to serve as education chair. Greg volunteered to write the membership chair job description. Steve will vet a volunteer who’s interested in serving on the board. Matthew agreed to review the current list of committees and provide in the next several days his proposal on a new committee structure. Election for officers and board members will be at the next meeting.
* Audubon chapter leadership meeting a virtual meeting on April 28. Any of our leaders can attend.

Next meeting: May 28 at 7 p.m. online.

There was no new business.

On Ken’s mothion and Walt’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary