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 **MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: February 25, 2021**

Present via video teleconference: Rita Baden, Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Josh Sweet, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: January minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); agenda (Matthew). Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., shared the agenda, and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Walt’s second, the board unanimously approved the January minutes. Rob updated the board on changes to the website. He asked the board’s direction on how to handle a request to post an article from the website from a non-member; Rob will post the article and email the sender. Steve also will contact Diana Doyle about a more in-depth article.

Treasurer: The current budget showed total net worth as $55,932. Walt reviewed the past month’s income and expenses. That includes about $700 in end-of-the year contributions. Last month’s speaker asked to send his fee to community support. On Walt’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the board agreed to send the $250 check to SecondHarvest food shelf.

Membership: Steve is double checking the membership list on the master file and on MailChimp so we can send renewal notices. We have 147 local members. The search committee (Rita, Matthew, Steve) reported no activity. Steve will add phone numbers to the spreadsheet so the committee can get started.

Trumpeter newsletter: Josh thanked everyone who’s sent in edits for the newsletter. We should be able to get that out by the weekend. Rob suggested providing a link to the CBC data in the website; Steve will send it to Josh for inclusion in the Trumpeter. The next edition will be for May and June.

Programs: Dr. Jonathan Slaight, author of “Owls of the Eastern Ice,” will be tonight’s speaker. We have speakers for last year’s canceled meetings for the next several meetings. They include a program on cheetahs and wolves in March and the North Ottawa impoundment in April.

Old business:

* Trumpeter Service Award – Discussion was moved to March.
* Birdflight and Music Patterns – Rob will respond to Terry Wolkowitz of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra letting him know that we’ll support the video.
* Grant proposals:
	+ Friends of the Saz/Zim bog ask for $1,000 for signage. The board will examine the proposal and discuss it next month; there are lots of opportunities in the bog.
	+ Walt sent out checks earlier for approved grants.
	+ The entire $1,500 to the Friends of the Refuge will be used to purchase seed for the feeders.
	+ The new Nine Mile Creek Watershed grant request asks for $2,000 to support a rain garden at Normandale Hills Elementary School. The board needed more time to read the proposal and will discuss it at the March meeting.
	+ Other grant requests, including those that may be received in March, also will be discussed next month, including the Jefferson High School request that needed more information, which we haven’t received.

New Business: Eden Prairie Noon Rotary has asked for a speaker. Bob will let them know that we’re willing to visit with them but need some time to better understand their needs and get a program together.

No schedule was announced for the next meeting.

On Ken’s motion and Walt’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary