****

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

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

Documents distributed ahead of time: January minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); agenda (Matthew); various grant requests. Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., shared the agenda, and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Robin’s second, the board unanimously approved the February minutes. He forwarded Christine Tierney’s request to have a single point of contact for website questions and requests; Rob volunteered to do that. He explained that because of her taking a leave of absence, she’ll provide someone to support us while she’s gone. He updated the board on website activity in the past month. The board agreed with Rob’s decision to wait on an article from Diana Doyle about equipment, rather than using an over-the-transom article received several weeks ago. Lee Ann requested administrator access to our Facebook page.

Treasurer: The current budget showed total net worth as $58,488. Walt reviewed the past month’s income and expenses. The membership payment $2,631 from national Audubon was the biggest revenue item.

Membership: Steve continues to update the MailChimp email list, which should be done by the end of the week. He reported more than 150 local members, and said that he sends out a monthly a membership renewal reminder to about a dozen members a month. He also said he has a potential candidate for membership chair; if that fails, Lee Ann has volunteered.

Programs: This month’s program is from Rob Schultz on cheetahs and wolves. Christine Herwig will have a presentation on the North Ottawa Impoundment in April. For May, Steve has arranged for the head of the Raptor Center to talk about bird die-offs from human drugs. He raised the issue of using virtual meetings during cold-weather months. Robin suggested streaming in-person programs at The Refuge as well.

Grant request guidelines: Doug reviewed the draft of his guidelines. Matthew asked to postpone discussion until April. Doug asked for board members to email comments to him.

Old business:

* Trumpeter Service Award – Doug has had no nominations.
* Birdflight and Music Patterns – Rob responded to Terry Wolkowitz of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra letting him know that we’ll support the video. Rob will send the information to Walt for payment and the board will decided at a future meeting what to do with the link.
* Grant proposals:
  + Girl Scout: Approved last month and paid.
  + Friends of the Saz/Zim bog asked for $1,000 for signage funding. We need to ensure that we get credit for funding it on the sign and in its newsletter. On Rob’s motion and Ken’s second, the decision to support the grand with the condition about acknowledgement was unanimous.
  + The entire $1,500 to the Friends of the Refuge will be used to purchase seed for the feeders. Lee Ann will ask about filling the feeders. The request was tabled for now until Lee Ann finds out more about the empty feeders found at the headquarters building.
  + On Rob’s motion and Matthew’s second, the vote was unanimous to approve the new Nine Mile Creek Watershed grant request for $2,000 to match its own contribution to support a rain garden at Normandale Hills Elementary School. We will pay the watershed district; Matthew will have to sign the agreement.
  + On Ken’s motion and Walt’s second, the vote was unanimous to approve the amended Earth Corps/Jefferson High School’s $1,500 request reviewed last month.

New Business:

* Eden Prairie and Richfield have surveys to get citizen input on land use. In Eden Prairie there is a move to rezone rural land to be developed. In Richfield, part of Veteran’s Park is being considered for development. Lee Ann will forward the information to Rob for the website so members can weigh in.
* Speaker’s Bureau: Rob and Bob are working on a slide deck for a presentation to Eden Prairie Noon Rotary in June. The PowerPoint presentation can be tailored to other civic group presentations. Rob suggested that we develop a list of speakers who could respond to these requests.

No schedule was announced for the next meeting.

On Walt’s motion and Matthew’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary