

## **MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**June 22, 2023, 6 p.m. at The Refuge HQ in person**

**Present:** Dani Collier, Lee Ann Landstrom, Matthew Schaut, Steve Weston, Rob Daves, Avery Blumenthal.

### **Welcome, introductions and agenda approval – Rob**

#### **Trumpeter Report – Sam**

- Dani will add a QR code and boilerplate for social media, while changing the format.

#### **Secretary's Report – Avery**

- The last meeting's minutes were approved with edits (the Trumpeter Award was awarded to Doug Mayo).

#### **Website/Social Media Report – Rob/Dani**

- Doug Mayo's obituary was updated. Dani will add the event to the Facebook page.
- Contact Dani if you want something posted on Facebook.
- Dani will add guided walks and other events to Facebook.
- Dani will advertise the auction (which Scott Clark and Monica will assist with).
  - Rob will make a group to coordinate more of what to do for the auction.
  - A Facebook post will be made asking if people have any bird items to donate.
- Website:
- Rob has not received emails about policy matters but has received spam and bird inquiries.
- Create a MRVAC email address that the public can contact ([info@mrvac.org](mailto:info@mrvac.org)).

#### **Treasurer's Report – Walt**

- **MRVAC monthly budget**
  - Walt sent the budget. There is nothing of note.

#### **Membership Report – Steve/Pam**

- Email list: 1196 members last month, 1191 this month.

#### **Programs Report – Steve**

- Four people have agreed to present out of eight meetings next year.

## **Old Business (board champion):**

### **Grants:**

- There have been no grant proposals since May.
- How do we do a better job of advertising?
  - Social media and using organizations such as Minnesota Master Naturalists.

### **Non-grant old business:**

- **Auction (need a champion)**
- **Audubon Update (Rob)**
  - Steve and possibly Dani can attend the chapter leaders' meeting in August.
- **Conservation updates (Lee Ann)**
  - No updates.
- **Trumpeter Award (Steve)**
  - The Trumpeter Award is on a plaque and ready for Doug's wife at the memorial gathering.
- **Name change/EDIB (equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging) (Rob/All)**
  - The chapter leaders from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and MRVAC are discussing what to do next.
  - Quotes from the Clemson professor's article should be added to the Trumpeter.
  - Someone could write an article for the Trumpeter on why we are considering a name change.

## **New Business**

- **Dues structure proposal (Steve) – New proposal: members, \$20; seniors/students, \$15; supporting, \$50**
  - Using bird names as membership levels: consensus but Steve will fine tune and add as a formal proposal.
  - Include a lifetime membership (\$1000) and something for \$100?
  - Dani suggests that we re-add a membership table with a QR code (Rob has an idea for the greeter) to the monthly meetings.
- **Membership in-kind award (Steve)**
  - On Steve's proposal and Matthew's second, the board approved the Membership in-kind award to Robin at 7:05 p.m. for purchasing and donating all meeting refreshments.

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

*Minutes taken by Board Member Avery Blumenthal.*