Welcome & Introductions

Attendees: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Krista Dahlinger, Mickey Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Jeff Hansen, Lorna Harder, Karen Hummel, Mike Kaye, Brian Martin, Cynthia Rhodes, Paul Showalter

Guest: Susana Valdovinos

Brad welcomed everyone at 1:04 and thanked our host Janeen Walters. Jeff provided a short history of Karlyle Woods.

Brad asked for changes on the minutes to the last meeting minutes. Craig moved to accept as circulated. Mike Haddock second.

Committee Reports

Budget/Financial Report

Earl went through the budget report. At the end of 2018, we had just shy of $34,000 in liquid assets, and almost $20,000 invested in mutual funds earmarked for future use. Our income for the year was $21,600 while our expenses were $16,100.

Earl mentioned that the our investments in the mutual funds took a hard hit in December and January, but that's the nature of mutual funds and to be expected. Even with the hit, the Legacy fund is still averaging nearly 6% growth per year and the Scholarship fund is averaging over 3%.

Earl did not present a budget for 2019, but will do so at the spring board meeting.

The Finance Committee will get together and make a formal recommendation to move some money from checking, Paypal and the money market account into another fund that could generate more interest.

Craig moves to accept the report summary. Iralee seconds. Passes unanimously.

Membership Report

Craig reported that we were almost exactly where we were last year. He sent out renewal letters for lapsed members and has, at a minimum, recouped the cost of the mailings. He doesn't expect any significant changes in the membership numbers this year.

We have three new life members since September.

Earl mentioned that life memberships are not tax deductible.

Website & Events

Krista reported that Matthew is updating the event calendar. Both she and Matthew are being progressive in posting events from other organizations.
Krista stated that the website needs reviewed and asked for volunteers to adopt a section.

**Awards**
This year’s Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship due date is March 15 and all other award deadlines are July 1.

**Public Policy**
Mike Kaye discussed the concept of public policy, which can be interpreted as the effects of legislative decisions on the local, national and international level.

His involvement for KNPS is with the Kansas Monarch Taskforce which will determine if the Monarch butterfly should go on the Endangered Species List.

The final report could be released as early as June 2019. When the report is done, he recommends that we publish it on the KNPS website.

Mike will email the board about the topic so we can continue the conversation following the board meeting.

**Education**
Lorna solicited ideas for a project in education because she hasn’t been pursuing any particular areas. She sees her role as outreach as well. She does have several ideas for 2019 to try and engage the younger generation.

**Newsletter**
Cynthia said that the next issue of the newsletter would be in mailboxes next week. The Spring/April issue begins in early March and will be delivered mid-April. Story suggestions should be submitted to Cynthia and Brian by the middle of March. The theme will be “plan your native garden and spring growing season.”

Brian recommends that we switch from a “folded delivered” newsletter to an “unfolded delivered,” which would have a net savings of approximately $160 per year.

We briefly discussed exploring electronic delivery of the newsletter, although no conclusion was reached.

**Plant Resources & Stewardship**
Brad threw out a couple of options for promoting our current Wildflower of the Year (*Verbena stricta*), including press releases and social media posts. He also thinks we should encourage responsible seed collection and we can offer the seeds at AWW.

**Other Business**
June Kliesen Memorial update
KNPS recently received a generous check for $25,000 from the family of former board member June Kliesen, who passed away in October 2017. Her request was that some of her estate would be used to fund educational programs through KNPS.

A potential partnership with the Dyck Arboretum and their Earth Partnership for Schools program was discussed. Because Lorna and Brad are both associated with those programs, they left the room to eliminate a conflict of interest.

Because the EPS only covers a portion of the state, the board decided to explore additional programs and initiatives that would have more statewide coverage. For now, Krista said KNPS should, and Earl did, write a check for $1000 to the EPS and earmark it for a teacher scholarship. Paul will head an ad hoc committee, along with Karen, to explore other organizations and ultimately make a recommendation on what to do with the remainder of the donation. In the meantime, the remaining $24,000 will be placed into a money market account for safe keeping.

**Hesston May 17-18, 2019 Two-Day Spring Meeting update**
Brad gave a few details on the spring board meeting, which will be held in Hesston on Friday, May 17. On Friday and Saturday, we will visit Elm Springs/Box Canyon near Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and other locations in that part of the state.

**Atchison Sept. 13-15, 2019 AWW planning update**
Brad read notes from Andrew about the 2019 Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW) which will be held in Atchison in September. The board meeting will be in Horton and we'll have tours in and around the Atchison area.

**Possible new collaboration with prairie tours at Symphony in the Flint Hills?**
Brad is interested in working with the volunteer coordinators at the Symphony in the Flint Hills for KNPS members to assist with wildflower walks.

**Recommendations for Board Meeting Sites and Dates for 2020**
Following a brief discussion, we opted to have a board meeting in Garden City next year. Craig said he would reach out to Anthony to help coordinate.

**Citizen Science**
Shirley is trying to get communities involved in science-related activities.

**Chapman Kelly**
Krista has been in contact with 86-year old artist Chapman Kelly. He wants to encourage everyone to use native plants in their landscape and is looking to collaborate with KNPS.

**Wetlands Day**
Krista said that February 2 is International Wetlands Day and is investigating if KNPS can participate in any activities.

**KDWPT**
Krista has picked up the pen from Iralee and is now writing native plant related articles for the KDWPT magazine five times per year. If there’s a native plant or related topic that you’d like to highlight, let Krista know.

**Planetnative.org**
There is a conference in Kansas City in September and it’s an opportunity for KNPS to have a booth or other exposure.

Brad adjourned the meeting at 3:55.