Welcome & Introductions

Attendees: Earl Allen, Iralee Barnard, Shirley Braunlich, Nadine Champlin, Krista Dahlinger, Mick Delfelder, Craig Freeman, Jane Freeman, Brad Guhr, Mike Haddock, Lorna Harder, Karen Hummel, Brian Martin, Andrew Mitchell, Joan Manor, Matthew Richter, Dee Scherich, Phyllis Scherich, Paul Showalter

Guests: Bob Champlin, Kylee Kutscher, Nancy Goulden, Rick Warshauer

Brad called the meeting to order at 1 pm and gave a brief background on the history of the Dyck Arboretum.

Scott Vogt, Executive Director of the arboretum, talked a bit about one of Dyck Arboretum’s flagship programs: the Earth Partnership for Schools, which over 250 teachers have attended.

Brad asked for changes on the minutes to the last meeting minutes. Everyone voted to approve the minutes as circulated.

Committee Reports

Budget/Financial Report
Earl reviewed the budget report that includes activity through the end of April. Lorna moved to accept the report and Karen seconded. Passes unanimously.

Membership Report
Craig reports that he and Jane are getting 10 to 15 renewals per week, but he expects it to taper off. He’s holding off to see if he’ll send another round of renewal letters. Although membership levels are steady compared to last year, dues may be up several thousand dollars due to members selecting higher membership levels.

Website & Events
Matthew is working to gain access to the backend of the website, so he can personally make minor edits directly instead of running them through our website contractor, Jay Anderson. Matthew said that he and Krista are still looking for people to help make edits.

Krista is reviewing the site and finding a few items out of date, so she’s helping with those corrections.

Awards
Craig said that the Mary A. Bancroft Memorial Scholarship applications were due on March 15. We didn’t receive any entries this year, but we could discuss late entries if we receive one.

Entries for all other awards are due by July 1. We have received one nomination for Stephen L. Timme Excellence in Botany Award, but Craig and Mike felt like it wasn’t in spirit with the history of the award.
They recommend adjusting the wording on the website to make it clear what we have in mind for the award.

The current wording: “This annual award is given to someone who has made an important contribution to botany in the state of Kansas in the form of research or education.”

The proposed new wording: “This annual award is given to an individual or individuals who have, through their careers, made important contributions in the field of botany in Kansas through research and/or education. Students involved in undergraduate or graduate research or education are not eligible for this award.”

Phyllis moved to accept Craig’s revision and Krista seconded. Passed unanimously.

Craig said that we have received one Non-profit Funding Grant, but he’ll circulate that through the awards committee following the deadline.

Public Policy
No report for public policy committee.

Education
Lorna wants to get out there and work with the kids! If you have a project idea, let her know.

Lorna thanked Iralee for raising the issue of seasonal signage for native gardens in the April 2019 newsletter.

Newsletter
Brian said that Cynthia will be sending newsletter article requests around June 1, with a story deadline of June 15. The summer issue will come out around mid-July. Brian asked for volunteers to write about this weekend’s activities.

Plant Resources & Stewardship
Brad spoke about the continued promotion of the Wildflower of the Year, *Verbena stricta*. Specifically, we can do a press release, maybe a Facebook post, and perhaps have seeds available and a floral display at the Annual Wildflower Weekend in Atchison.

Krista is writing about nature and wildflowers in the *Kansas Wildlife & Parks Magazine*. A recent issue mentioned *Verbena stricta* and the Wildflower of the Year campaign.

Mike Haddock and Craig Freeman have a new book, *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines in Kansas*, that will be released on May 29. We should include it in the newsletter and maybe do a Facebook post about it. It is available on Amazon, the University of Kansas Press website and other outlets.

Other Business
This weekend
Brad brought us up to speed on the weekend’s activities, including a hay meadow visit on Friday afternoon and Smoky Hill activities on Saturday.

Update on Sept. 13-15 Atchison Annual Wildflower Weekend (AWW)
Andrew reviewed plans for the 2019 AWW. Friday’s board meeting will be in Horton; Saturday’s membership meeting will be in downtown Atchison. The featured speaker will be Doug Grimm, owner of regional nursery Grimm’s Gardens and state champion tree expert. Brad is reaching out to another potential speaker. Scheduled activities include Jackson Park on Saturday and Atchison State Fishing Lake on Sunday.

Mother Earth News at AWW
Andrew was contacted by an assistant editor of *Mother Earth News* who would like to attend the AWW this fall. He said he would write about AWW in the magazine after the event, if we agreed to waive his registration fee. The board was in favor of doing this as long as there were no other stipulations.

Somebody will need to provide the editor with our logo.

Recommendations for Board Meeting Sites and Dates for AWW 2020.
Craig and Anthony have been discussing having the 2020 AWW in Garden City. We have never had an AWW west of Garden City. The weather of Garden City could be dicey in September, along with the availability of blooming plants.

Phyllis suggested that we look at the Galena-area for the spring board meeting. There was some discussion on switching the locations (Garden City in the spring and Galena in the fall), and we decided to continue the conversation by email and try to have a consensus by this year’s AWW.

Brad passed around a Thank You card to Brian Kliesen for the board members to sign. He also passed around a thank you letter from the Dyck Arboretum for the $1000 donation from KNPS (originally from the June Kliesen estate) to support the Earth Partnership for Schools program.

The ad hoc committee to determine the fate of the remaining donation from the Kliesen family will consist of Paul, Dee, Phyllis and Karen.

Craig said that he had further information from Brian Kliesen on how the Kliesen family would like the money used. He asked Brad and Lorna, who are both involved in the Earth Partnership for Schools (EPS) program at Dyck Arboretum, to step out while we discussed the donation. According to a letter received by Craig, Brian stated he wanted the donation used to support child environmental education through the Earth Partnership for Schools program in honor of his parents. Since we discussed other options at the January board meeting, Craig will reach back out to Brian to receive final clarification. From KNPS’s perspective, we’d like the EPS program to use the money to expand to other parts of the state where the EPS doesn’t have a presence.

Once Craig receives the confirmation from the Kliesen family, the ad hoc committee will have a conversation with Brad on how the EPS will utilize the funds.
**KC Plan It Native Conference in September – KNPS Sponsorship**
Lorna received a Memorandum of Understanding from the Kansas City Native Plant Initiative about becoming a partner of that program. The group supports using native plants in the landscape and doesn’t charge anything to become a partner.

Some board members asked about the sources supporting the group and their partners, and also whether the registration fee and other fees might prohibit some groups from being able to afford to attend, so the board took no action on the partnership at this time. Lorna received some great feedback and plans to go back to the initiative to get clarification on a few matters. We can discuss again at the next board meeting.

The KCNPI has a *Plan it Native Conference* in September and has booths available for non-profits. The board decided not to have a table at the conference.

**Google Docs KNPS Shared Folder**
Brad expressed an interest in moving a lot of our files into a shared folder on Google Drive. Brad, Mick and Krista can work on that together.

**Symphony in the Flint Hills Update**
Although some board members expressed an interest in providing support for the Symphony’s wildflower walks, Brad said that the Symphony has stated that they don’t need any help this year.

**Board Resignation of Mark Neubrand**
Mark has resigned from the board due to demands in his work life. We will look at bringing in a new board member at this year’s AWW to fill his remaining two years.

**Review of Legacy Donations**
Earlier this year, a recent lifetime member expressed concern about the KNPS policy of investing half of each new lifetime membership in a mutual fund. Given the volatility of the market, that member felt that a mutual fund was a bit risky.

Subsequent to receiving the concern, members of the finance committee determined that our strategy was sound. They followed up with the concerned member and came to an agreement. Brad will also reach out to this member to give this person the option to move half of this person’s lifetime membership into a fix-interest account.

Although we have confidence in our strategy with the mutual fund and recognize the volatility of the stock market, Craig said that we should be more transparent about the strategy to new, potential lifetime members. We will include an article in the newsletter and online, plus provide additional information when people become lifetime members. All future lifetime members will be able to opt-out of the mutual fund and have their half of the lifetime membership included in a fixed-interest account.

Brad adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.