

MAEE Board Meeting

MINUTES

May 13, 2014 / 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Will Steger Foundation
2801 21st Ave S Suite 110
Minneapolis, MN 55407



Board Members:

Present: Katie-Lyn Bunney, Angela Bianco, Matti Erpestad, Molly Phipps, Jenni Poliseno, Callie Recknagel, John Smith, Wendy Tremblay

Present via online video medium: Shannon Judd, Jill Nocera, Sarah Shimek

Quorum Present? Yes.

Others Present: None.

Proceedings:

6:39 Meeting begins

President's remarks & announcements

6:39 Approve agenda (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd Katie-Lyn Bunney, passed)

6:39 Approve Consent Agenda (motion by Molly Phipps, 2nd Matti Erpestad, passed)

6:45 Feast Forward conversation added to agenda following stretch break (motion by Wendy Tremblay, 2nd Matti Erpestad, passed)

6:45 Approve March minutes (motion by Molly Phipps, 2nd Jenni Poliseno, passed)

Election proceedings

Molly Phipps desires to move from Vice President to President, since Johnny-boy Marlay is leaving for Montana soonish :(checking by-laws

Sarah nominated Katie-Lyn...thank you, but denied

6:55 Prez J.M. Smith handed in written permission to Secretary about his resignation from the highest of high presidential office

M.E. Phipps clarified her desire to be president

6:59 Katie-Lyn says if someone else takes over the conference for next year, she would consider being the Vice-President

6:59 Motion to vote M.E. Phipps as Prez (motion by Wendy Tremblay, 2nd Angela Bianco, passed)

VP to be re-visited next meeting

Motion to make Molly Phipps prez after meeting is over (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd Katie-Lyn Bunney, passed)

7:05 Strategic Planning

- Molly provided a recap of possible ways to go forward with strategic planning as discussed in the Executive Committee meeting
- Timeline to get funding and start process? (Callie)

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- Molly re Pre-planning Planning: 3-6 month lag for funding once grant is found, thus after the conference next year could be a good time to proceed; apply now/soon and ask for input from members
- John: no need to fret that it ends this year, we have decision making power to change if needed; therefore, use conference, e.g., as a time/space to speak with members and get input
- Katie-Lyn thoughts: MAEE is doing well thus far in all aspects except for Advocacy
 - What should we adjust in Advocacy section?
 - Shannon thoughts: Feast Forward could fit in as an advocacy element
- What if we move away from conference in order to reach more people (Callie)--last year we reached 68 people with a lot of time and energy; point: let's use our time and energy to make a larger impact
- What if we join forces with MNA (Katie-Lyn)--e.g. conference merge, which will affect the strategic plan
- Need to make things easier to choose MAEE as an option (Sarah); it's hard for members of the broke naturalists/EE community
- Why is our conference in June--it's a bad time for naturalists according to MNA president (Molly)
- Reason for conference in June is the time it takes to plan--also likes Callie's ideas of having multiple smaller venues/events (Jill)
 - how was attendance at Feast Forward? (Jill)
 - about 30-35 (John)
 - new people? (Jill)
 - Yes--Sarah helped bring a lot of new people
 - we could make a little bigger deal of the Feast Forward, a bit more formal, a bit more focused on fundraising
 - having multiple smaller events could reach more parts of Minnesota
 - could be cheaper, thus more appealing and a more family-oriented event
 - we could bring in more specialized speakers
- John--from conversations from Katie Pata it seemed that MNA is struggling a bit financially and needs to focus on itself (?)
 - we should still approach them and see how to make similar work easier (e.g. conference) through collaboration

NEXT STEPS:

Conference - no conference next year?

- focus on smaller Feast Forward events

Approach MNA about joint conference in 2015 or 2016

- Mara Koenig, Loren Borer, Katie Pata,
- pull names from Wild Apricot and share file with members and see who knows whom
 - Callie will pull names and send out
- John will be in touch with Katie Pata, also Katie-Lyn and Molly

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Strategic planning continued

- how to approach this at conference?
 - A World Cafe (Molly will take lead on this)
 - we should add this on our conference page

7:44 Stretch Break

7:59 2014 Conference Discussion

- ALL board members MUST push conference registration--write email to all contacts who may be interested!!

Key points to highlight:

1. workshops on Friday
2. Keynote on Friday night: professor at , Monarch expert
3. sessions --link to descriptions on website
4. social evening
5. awards
6. field trips
7. Silent auction: ALL board members MUST donate at least ONE item to Silent Auction!!

Highlight:

1. Early Bird deadline this Friday May 16!
2. Teachers can use sessions as Continuing Education Units

- Time line
 - 5:00 - 6:00 brainstorming event
 - need catchy title, like "A World Cafe: How well is MAEE doing EE for you and meEE...?"
 - 6:00 Dinner --See webiste for details: <http://www.minnesotaeae.org/2014>
- 8:28 Emails sent!!
- Financial update (Shannon): DNR stipends processed, so we got \$1751 of income, more stipends to process after conference (we get \$25 per stipend)
 - Gardening Matters (Feast Forward) getting figured out
- Scholarships (Shannon)--waiving fee instead of reimbursing afterwards
- 8:30 Roles on-site (Katie-Lyn)
 - K-L there on Thursday, but splitting duties
 - Registration: before workshops start 8-10 am on Friday, 11- 1:30 (lunch included) and afternoon 5-8 pm (Jenni plus volunteers?)
 - **Attending Board members get there BEFORE DINNER!!**
 - Saturday registration 8-11 am
 - Shannon makes sure that presenters are way they need to be
 - Diversity panel should/could have more members--can morph to more of an open conversation
 - Shannon to get co-presenter in touch with John
 - Exhibitors need 1 volunteer
 - **ALL BOARD MEMBERS: plug your name into MAEE 2014 conference volunteers document to help out!!**
 - Set up/clean up?

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- Silent Auction
- Field Trips moderators--make sure those who signed up are there and establish a meeting place/time (Wendy, Matti, plus 1 board member)

If anything is unclear on conference website, contact Callie

8:50 **Board Development:** Starting on Business (Molly and Matti)

9:00 Adjourn (motion by Matti Erpestad, 2nd Callie Recknagel, passed)