

Minutes

Kansas Academy of Science Fall Board Meeting by Zoom: November 1st, 2022

Attending: Sam Leung, Stewart Gardner, Joanna Gress, Dustin Wilgers, Kim Simons, Mark LaBarge, Lani Witters, David McKenzie, Lynnette Sievert, Erin Morris, Erika Martin

Called to order 11:03

Approval of the agenda: Approved

Approval of the minutes of summer meeting: Approved

Reports

Treasurer's Report - From Shaun's email

Please see my attached Treasurer's report. I will not be at the meeting to discuss it as I have another meeting scheduled at the same time. A few of items to note:

1. Account balances are still healthy. Both CD's are in a 30-month bump paying out at 3.33%. There are better ways to invest these \$60k+ funds once 501.c.3. status is taken care of (note 5 below).
2. Member donations seem to be down. Perhaps that will rectify itself with the annual dues notice later in November. I'm also wondering if the extra step necessary in Member Planet might be affecting extra giving. Shaun recommends we wait and see for now.
3. TKAS Fall issue production and editor costs still expected later this year.
4. K-12 Science Teacher grants have not been paid out for 2022.
5. Working with a new accountant on 501.c.3. reinstatement. He had it nearly ready to submit and lost his support staff earlier in the year. He will submit the paperwork after third quarter fillings are completed.

Discussion: Has the tax-exempt issue been happening for like 15 years? We have been dealing with a turnover of accountants/firms that have been trying to help us with this. Perhaps we should consider paying a firm, if we aren't doing that already? Erin Morris mentioned that another non-profit she works with pays about \$500/yr for taxes, and that has worked well for them in the past.

Secretary's Report - We have 203 members right now. Doing about normal, if not a bit better. Renewal notices will go out in December and see how it goes. This will be the second time to use Member Planet. Dustin asked about assembling the ballot for next year. Sam has everything he needs. Have all the "new system" bugs been worked out? It seems to work well now. Let us stick with the same system for now.

Committee Reports:

Junior Kansas Academy of Science- No report

Transactions – The Fall issue is complete and should be in mailboxes in the next week or so. I already have seven papers for the Spring issue (Fall had 9 total). Things seem to be going easier now. Emails from emporia servers occasionally get sent to Spam. Peer review goes fairly quickly. Expecting more papers coming soon. Dustin mentioned what a great job Erika is doing with the TKAS. We are getting several submissions from KU and KSU people now too. We fill an important niche for good, Kansas-related data. We are still getting the weird Cengage payments. ESU council has not been very helpful with this situation. Any other options? Already spoken to Allen Press and BioOne, who say that this is a KAS issue (not against their bylaws, etc). We should send a formal cease and desist letter and hope that they stop. We need a lawyer to draft that. Should we consider retaining a lawyer? Should we just cash the checks and not worry about it? Are we making Allen Press or BioOne mad? If not, why not just let it go? The checks are on the order of dollars per year (1-3ish). If we do not cash the checks, then we do not appear to be approving of the situation. Could we draft a **cease-and-desist letter**, signed by the board/president and send it to them? Stewart will move forward with this topic. There are some templates for those letters online. Moving online, meet with Dustin and Mike to follow up with that option (perhaps Mike may be too busy now). We still do not have a contract with Allen Press (only the issue of not being locked in on a price). They have several options that we can select from and then they will give us real cost estimates. We will keep on the same trajectory until we have some of those answers. Pam did resign and it would be nice if the board could present something to her in recognition of all her service to KAS. Erika will move forward with that and is welcome to any ideas. The Journal of Herpetology is making the shift to online and has found out that with Allen Press, they do shift some of the print costs to the online options.

Newsletter - no report

Grants Coordinator Reports- Erin Morris has gotten one undergraduate research grant application that she will review. We did not get any reminder out before the deadline this fall. Educator grants have also not been advertised. Hopefully, next fall will get better.

Old Business

2023 Annual Meeting Sites and beyond

2023 McPherson Dustin says things are coming along nicely. Two keynote speakers, one local on sustainable crops. The other on fossils from Colorado State to discuss recoveries from La Brea tar pit. Likely be a KES joint meeting again. All facilities are requested and reserved. Will start announcing program/abstract submissions after the first of the year.

2024 ESU In 2014 the meeting was in the Union and there were significant costs to that. Years ago, it was hosted in the Science building, but there are restrictions with food contracts.

2022 KAS Audit: Mark will send Lynnette a copy of his audit, so she can use it as a template if she wants. Shaun is extremely helpful with that.

New Business

TKAS discussion

Electronic version

Follow up on Cengage issues

Social Media Editor position expectations/job description. Erika has a lot of Biology Education people in her lab. She could ask them for their interest. Kelly Clue, a biology teacher near KC is the Social Media person for the Kansas Herp Society. Do we expect the editor to post on all major social media? Which platform would be best for the audience we want to connect with? KHS gets valuable feedback through Facebook. A survey of students did not show a lot of interest in content on all the platforms. It would be good to highlight research in the state. We could start with Facebook and Instagram.

Officers for next year- Election ballot will go out with renewals for next year's membership.

Pam Everhart has resigned her position on the Board (Council Member-at-Large, class of 2023). Should we appoint a replacement? Dustin is willing to fill in for Pam. Dave is willing to stay on the board, So, Dustin can go up for the following year. Dave McKenzie was voted on and approved.

Mark LaBarge will continue to use the whenisgood.net scheduling for future meetings

Adjourn: 12:10