

MAW DC Board Meeting 3/16/2023

Attendees: Elizabeth, Matt, Anil, Bruce, Annie, Tom Moore, Tom McCoy, April, Mitch

- Since monthly meetings are now online only, April (along with DNA group) has been organizing in-person events. (sPACyCLOUd dinner, Aaron's workshop at ANXO DC). People still email Elizabeth asking for in-person monthly meeting. Winter forays had a decent turnout. We need to think of other ways to engage membership with in-person events.
- Discrepancies in minutes of last meeting regarding board rules surrounding approval of Identifiers. Elizabeth modified the board rules during last meeting and are available here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SVFWian5AJnUgXZEgfoO5rsF8qA8PGCZjNGoj3XNdp8/e.dit>. Modified board rules in Google docs voted on and approved by all attendees.
- DNA group's lab days get one or two MAW members visit occasionally.
- Mitch noticed a drop in member count by ~100 in the foray list.

Budget:

- Treasurer's report.
 - o Membership and donations are strong.
 - o Spending so far this year \$3456:
 - \$1105 on honoraria, \$100 on Zoom, \$281 on culinary (\$81 expenses from last year), \$153 wild apricot transaction fee, \$53 newsletter, \$200 for forays, \$700 on DNA (Megan yet to submit some expenses), \$735 photo contest (last year's expense submitted this year), \$80 misc. fee.
- 2023 draft budget came out ~17K short. 2022-year end reserves ~\$50K.
- Non-profit requirements dictate having no more than 2 yrs. worth of budget in reserves. Current reserves put us way over that threshold.
- IRS don't want you spending mostly on members benefits. They encourage outward facing spending, like DNA group, Mushroom Fair etc. Sequanota spending is most likely considered member benefits, but we typically break even.
- Approve website RFP this year to spend \$5K on website redesign next year. No money is needed to develop an RFP. Members to review and comment on RFP during the next board meeting., Tom Moore and Marisol to lead website redesign task and April offered to participate. Move website redesign (\$5K) to next year. The majority agreed. This brings the 2023 budget shortfall to ~\$12K.
- NAMA budget increased to \$300 at Bruce's request.
- Bruce is against bringing in Chef Julian to cook dinner for one night @Sequanota. Prefer to cook on our own using foraged mushrooms. Elizabeth and Mitch agree on charging Sequanota attendees for the extra cost of fancy dinner.
- Last year's Sequanota made a profit of ~2.5K, but people complained about the food. Therefore, April suggested using that amount to hire Chef Julien to cater dinner for one night. He can also act as an Identifier, do preservation workshop, and help with a foray.

- Catered dinner is estimated to be \$10 per head plus kitchen usage fee \$200, totals to ~\$1200 for estimated 100 attendees.
- Potentially try for one year and see. Prices are going up for Sequanota 2023 due to inflation.
- Elizabeth suggested making \$2.5K Sequanota 2022 profit as a slush fund for this year. The majority agreed. Matt is capping the attendance at 100 for 2023 Sequanota.
- Mushroom fair 2023 budgeted at \$1250.
- 2023 photo contest @\$1000. Elizabeth suggested a group voting process to judge photos instead of Tom doing it alone. Tom agreed. Annie and Anil volunteered to be on the photo contest judging panel. Potentially involve members, to pick a people's choice photo.
- Vote on 2023 budget: All voted yes!
- Need to resolve budget by December and not drag on to March.

Communications:

- Need a plan to do the newsletter regularly.
- Email communications – Tom McCoy will take on NE consortium emails. Foray emails will be sent by Annie and/or other folks who do foray. Mitch to help with foray emails as needed. Anil offered to proofread emails before they go out. Marisol to do newsletters.
- Mitch to continue with registration limits for his summer forays. Others can decide limits for their own forays.
- Social media - Elizabeth and Tom Moore have been handling social media. April suggested picking photos for contest based on Instagram likes. Tom Moore to jump start social media posting.
- Monthly meeting recording- Tom McCoy to record April meeting. Anil to find someone for May and June if he is not available. Anil to handle uploading meeting recording to YouTube.
- Board text chain started by Annie. To remind people of board meetings and other things.

Identifier nomination process:

- Zay was nominated as identifier.
- W.r.t refining process of nominating identifiers, several ideas were floated.
 - o Board could take over voting on identifiers and do it periodically.
 - o Board plus a few identifiers to vote.
 - o Reduce the voting threshold to ¾ of the ones who voted instead of ¾ of all identifiers.
 - o April suggested coming up with a document that lists the rights and responsibilities of an identifier.
 - o Elizabeth suggested Bruce come up with such a document.
 - o Bruce suggested interviewing the nominee get to know them better before voting.
 - o Decided on a hybrid approach - a document that lists out responsibilities and it will be used to interview the nominee. Bruce to write up the document.
 - o Document would be used as a starting point to nominate/vote in identifier and remove inactive identifiers.
 - o Potentially require identifiers attend culinary events where they are most needed. Perhaps require identifiers lead X number of forays every year.

- Nothing has been decided yet, Board members are to think about this process and come up with ideas for the next board meeting.
- April to send out a formal email to let Zay know that he is officially an identifier.
- Matt will add Zay to identifier email list in GoDaddy.

People taking responsibility for projects:

- Quarterly ID meetings – held outdoors at a park pavilion, invite a lot of members. Could be a bring your own lunch picnic/foray.
- April 22 – Earth Day at Anacostia.
- April 29 - book signing event with Jacob, Community Science Festival at Needwood.
- Cookbook – Tom McCoy’s pet project in collaboration with other members. Tom wants to focus on legacy members for recipes. No need to budget money for this year.