

Great Lakes Environmental Festival (GLEF) October 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2023 3pm Zoom meeting

In attendance were:

Stephanie Baiyasi	stephaniebaiyasi@yahoo.com	989-450-6110
Ziggy Kozicki	zigpsych@sbcglobal.net	989-450-1451
Peggy Raddatz	peg.raddatz@gmail.com	
Lee Trucks	ltrucks@jackpine.com	231-510-6785
Judy Cunningham	jpc4466@gmail.com	231-794-0005
Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas	mona_degeorgio@yahoo.com	231-690-6197

Quorum was present.

Excused:

John Helge	Johnmhelge@gmail.com	616-915-2403
Shirley Madden	gspmadden@gmail.com	313-478-5347
Gary Madden	genie42br@gmail.com	313-478-6250
Karla Smith-Kasten	reuse@mybarc.org	231-492-6138
Kevin Postma	ridesoldbike@gmail.com	
Andrea Paine	alpaine@umich.edu	231-233-5353

GLEF 9-10-23 meeting minutes were approved by Ramona and seconded by Ziggy and group approved 5-0.

Treasurer's Report read. Peggy asked if the payment to Manistee HS for school use had been paid. Stephanie explained that John H wanted the check now. She also explained about the September poster and mailbox costs. The letter being sent about the 'Guardian for the Environment' now includes the P.O. Box # 203 address. Stephanie added, we should consider new expenses; like a potted tree to decorate for the Festival of Trees (FOT.)

Agenda items:

- On site H.S. manager needed. Judy Cunningham volunteered for April 20th and 21st.
- Set up a wreath-making time/place with Shirley and Gary.
- Peggy volunteered to make embroidered 3 inch 'R' ornaments (red/green) for the FOT.
- Stephanie talked about using beer-bottle caps as tree decorations. Ramona suggested popcorn strands and cookie cutters. Painting the beer caps silver and gold and using bottle openers as ornaments were also mentioned. Ramona suggested a 'Honky-tonk' tabletop tree. Peggy will reserve a tree from The Lakeside Ladies. So...we'll have one small live tree (to be purchased, perhaps Family Fare?), one fake table-top tree and a wreath to design. John may have another FOT tree idea. Ziggy would like a nature theme for the live tree-with birds and critters. Maybe

we could reuse animal shapes from kid's puzzles, just drill holes to hang. Cookie cutter? We can all look at thrift stores for decoration ideas. All tree "stuff" needs to be done by November 30th

Ramona mentioned Kaleva recycling center tour Thurs Oct 19th League of Women Voters.

Old Business:

-Judy will be the site manager (directs people and if trouble will be contact to assist; directs media and expo people to where they need to be), on the 20th there may be a workshop for students.

Ziggy will drop off GLEF flyers at Manistee HS for faculty.

-John will be in charge of the EXPO, Ziggy the presentations/speakers.

-Most parts of the school will be closed off.

-We are focusing on plastic pollution of the earth and water.

-Ramona wants to add 'remember' to the 3 'Rs.' So, we'll have 4 Rs.

-Shirley created a two-page letter for the 'Guardian of the Environment' award/

-Ramona will check with the wood artists at Kaleva Art Gallery and the graphic artist at Amor Signs. She has a sketch for our logo that may work. She also brought up a League of Women Voter's field trip/lunch to the Kaleva Recycling Center on October 19th. Let her know if you can attend, she needs to advise the organizers.

-Ziggy brought up possible corporate awards, like for PCA. Judy reminded us they have been recycling paper for at least 25 years and suggested we look for a recent, or newer place-such as The Kaleva Recycling Center.

-TJ's has recyclable take out containers-if requested. They may qualify for an award if they change to everyone getting these containers. People may not know to ask.

-Ziggy would like to explore the possibility of window stickers to give to businesses as a 4-R champion.

-Shirley has a plan to go to businesses with a letter asking business people to participate in the 4-Rs. Ziggy and Stephanie can print and mail them out. New business names were added some and deleted during the Zoom meeting.

-GLEF will submit four articles, each with an R theme to the local newspapers. Shirley and Gary will do reduce and recycling for Oct and Nov. Judy will write on reuse (10 ways to reuse plastics) for Dec and Ramona on remember for January. They will be in 'letter to the editor style.

Include, 'As part of GLEF...' and include our website address.

-Submission deadlines for those sending in videos, art, writing etc.is March 15th, 2024. Entry is open to High School and College/University students and all adults.

-We all want the Milarchs back as a speaker. Judy suggested they do a tree-planting demo/workshop. Question: can John ask the HS where we may plant a tree(s)?

- We decided, No charge for EXPO tables.
- Judy would like to have a farmer represented and will ask Z&N Farms to attend the EXPO.
- Peggy volunteered husband who is organic turkey farmer to speak at Expo.
- Ramona suggested we ask the mushroom company from Scottville to come, and will contact them

-Ziggy will call the Huron-Manistee Forest Supervisor in Cadillac. Romana may attend a Zoom meeting with Ziggy and Stephanie if one can be arranged. This may help GLEF to involve Forest Service involvement in the GLEF event.

-We agreed that Ziggy should approach Kellogg and Dow Chemical foundations for funding.

-It was brought up that the Friday dinner ticket should include an upcharge toward the keynote speaker's honorarium. Possible speakers include Dr. Joan Rose or the MSU. Other speakers will also be considered.

- Is there such a thing as a bio-degradable plastic fork, knife, spoon etc. ?

-We tabled the sustaining GLEF member discussion until John is back.

-Ramona will contact representatives from MUCC, Michigan Outdoors and The Great Lakes Charter Fishing Association as possible speakers.

-Stephanie will send us the link to the AFFEW video (done).

-We agreed to invite 9&10 News to be a media partner. Ziggy will contact them.

-We agreed to invite the Mayor of Manistee to present the award(s) at the dinner.

-We added several additional High Schools in the area. John will contact them.

-We have reserved The Blue Fish Restaurant for our Friday dinner venue-upstairs. Group was OK for Fri night dinner and honorarium to be paid.

Ziggy and Stephanie will promote GLEF at the University of Detroit Mercy Bioneers Conference October 12-13, Alliance for Community Media in Monroe Michigan October 12, and the GVSU 5th Annual Climate Change Education Solutions Summit (CESS) at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids on October 17-18, 23.

The next Zoom meeting will be on Sunday 11/05/23 from 3-4pm.

As written and remembered. Ramona DeGeorgio-Venegas 10/09/2023 and added to/modified by Stephanie and Ziggy 10.21.23