

Mars Planet Foundation Board Meeting – February 16th 2021 Minutes

Board Members	Present	Ambassadors	Present
Kevin Hagen	X	Cara Schultz	X
Wyatt Lee	X	Becky Brown	
Andrea Bowser	X	Megan Lenz	
Tricia Holland	X	Robin Parsons	
Christine Valenta	X	John Neurohr	
Vickie Zaccari	X	Diana Jacoby	X
Dayle Ferguson		Katie Caruso	
Carol Knox	X	Jennifer Bainbridge	X
Rochelle Seideneck			
Dr. Elizabeth McMahon			

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm

Teacher Grant Presentations

- 1) Mr. Churilla – new books for the Mars Centennial Library.
 - a. Centennial library gets funding from the scholastic book fair. The book fairs are the major fundraisers for the library. The second book fair, last year, was cancelled due to covid and this year’s Book Fair was only available online. Scholastic only offers 25% Scholastic money when doing an online book fair. In-person Book Fairs would receive cash that the Library could then use to purchase any books that they need. Scholastic money can only purchase books from the Scholastic catalog, which is very limited and the quality is not the best. Due to cancelled spring book fair last year and the online book fairs this year, approximately \$6,000 was lost in profits. This grant money would allow the Library to purchase 88 books which are either; requested by students, requested by teachers for instructional purposes, 2020 & 2021 award winning books, newly released books, books to complete a series in the library, replacement books for lost or damaged books, and additional copies of popular titles.
 - b. Total Budget Request: \$1425.67 would fund the library with 88 new books.
- 2) Mrs. Thurber – Earthquakes and Volcanoes
 - a. The goal of this project is to introduce all seventh grade students to earthquakes and volcanoes. Students will be able to participate in activities and labs that earth scientists in the “Real World” would use to study and predict seismic activity. These activities are able to be reusable each year. Mrs. Thurber is requesting 2 kits so each 7th grade science teacher would be able to use it. All 30 students in each class would be able to utilize the kit. All 7th grade students would be able to learn from these kits. This will be hands-on work that will be added into the curriculum, instead of watching a video about seismic activity, the students would be do experiments.
 - b. Total Budget Request: \$616.50 for 2 kits including; Plate Tectonics, Volcano, and Earthquake Activities.

Discussion/Vote on Teacher Grant Proposals

1. Discussion regarding Mr. Churilla’s request. Due to the fact that there is a mechanism in place to fund the library, this would be a one-time request due to the pandemic. The Mars Planet

Foundation would be happy to fund the request. All present board members voted to approve the grant.

- a. Mr. Churilla was awarded the grant for \$1425.67.
2. Discussion regarding Mrs. Thurber's request. This request would be eligible to come from EITC funds. Wyatt Lee moved to approve the grant, Carol Knox second, all present Board Members voted to approve the grant. These funds will come out of EITC.
 - a. Mrs. Thurber was awarded the grant for \$616.50.

Previous Minutes - The Meeting Minutes from January 19th, 2021 were approved at 7:01pm – Vickie Zaccari moved to accept the minutes, Wyatt Lee seconded

Treasurer Report – Andrea Bowser

We have received notification that \$3,791.43 has been released from our Pittsburgh Foundation Holdings. This historically has been used to fund our MPF \$2,500 scholarship. Additionally, funds from the Austin family came in last month, not earmarked for anything in particular. We are starting to receive the donations from the Walk Around Mars sponsors.

EITC Report - Kevin Hagen

Nothing to report. We have not heard if our application was approved or denied.

Scholarship Report – Kevin Hagen relaying Megan Lenz's e-mail

Megan has been working with the guidance counselors on scholarships. Most of the deadlines for applications are April 15th 2021. This would give the MPF Board approximately one week to review applications prior to the foundation meeting on April 22nd 2021.

Fundraising Reports – Christine Valenta

1) Spello Dinner

- a. The Spello Fundraiser is Thursday February 18th. Total number of dinners sold was 37, approximately \$166.80 was raised for the Foundation due to this fundraiser.

2) Farmhouse Café

- a. Christine Valenta met with Farmhouse Café last week. They are happy to support the March dinner. They will have the menu to Christine by the end of the week. All dinners will be picked up at their location, Farmhouse Café. They will advertise, handle all of the ordering, and distributing.

3) Dented Keg could be a potential partner for our April Dinner Fundraiser.

Walk Around Mars Fundraiser – Carol Knox

1. Shelly Watson from the Mars New Year Committee joined us to talk about the Mars New Year Committee and promoting one another. Shelly is the Director of the STEAM Challenge. All kids between 3rd through 8th grade would be able to participate. The Mars New Year celebration occurs every 2 years. The upcoming New Years celebration is scheduled for August 27th & 28th. The Mars New Year Celebration will host a costume celebration, similar to our "Out of this World" themed costume week. This event will be held on the evening of August 27th. The Mars New Year Committee collaborates with NASA for the event. NASA sent 30 employees to give

lectures and lessons during the last Mars New Year celebration and approximately 30,000 people attended. They are happy to advertise our walk and they would really appreciate the PR from us as well.

2. **Sponsorship Committee update from Christine Valenta** – Approximately \$9,310 raised so far. Christine is still talking to a number of companies so she hopes we will have more come in over the next few weeks.
3. **School Liason Committee update from Vickie Zaccari** – Vickie met with all of the principals and gave them a roll-out as to what we are doing. PC Principal is going to carry Marty out to each car for drop-off and pick-up. HS & MS are excited to turn this into a student council initiative. Student Council has been very limited due to covid so Student Council is going to roll with this. Martians and posters will be displayed in each building. Vickie sent an email to Phys Ed teachers to ask them to promote the walk. The planning committee created a letter for the principals to be able to send out as well as a letter to send to the teachers promoting the fundraiser. Schools should be rolled-out the beginning of next week.
4. **PR Updates from Carol Knox** – Presentations have been made at the School Board meeting, the Adams Twp Supervisor Meeting, the Middlesex Twp Supervisors Meeting
5. **Swag Bag Updates from Diana Jacoby**– Rochelle has been researching Swag Bag options. She is looking into getting the swag bag donated and if not, what the best quote is. Multiple items have been procured by Diana & Rochelle for the swag bags so far: Neuggo Bars, Wendy's coupon, Giant Eagle chips, pedometers, Loaffers coupon, Peace, Love and Little Donuts coupon, Chick-Fil-A is donating 2 prizes, DiBellos is donating 100 free coupon cookies, McDonalds has committed to donating items for the swag bag as well. Additionally, Dr. Rhoades offered to donate a free cleaning to a student. Christine did mention to all of the sponsors that they can provide a giveaway or promotional material for swag bag. Swag bag pick-up will occur at the Mars High School entrance March 24th & 25th.
 - a. **Medals** – We received a quote for a medal. This medal would be distributed to anyone making over \$100 for the foundation. 50 pieces for \$6.75, 100 pieces for \$6.50, ribbon is \$0.65 a piece.
6. **Alumni Update** – The Alumni Committee created a letter to be sent to all alumni on file. Mars High School was contacted for list of alumni as well.
7. **Website Committee – Wyatt** – Wyatt is going to roll out a post at 8:00am tomorrow announcing the walk. Wyatt reviewed the website. Discussed the updates that occurred with the registration area. Wyatt is going to look into getting a code to see if we can separate people once they sign up as a group of 4.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Report (Final)

1. February books went out because we cancelled the subscription on January 20th therefore no further books will be received after the February mailing.

New Business:

1. Newsletter – Discussion regarding the Mars Planet Foundation newsletter. The newsletter would need to be created ASAP so it could be distributed within the next few weeks. Kevin is to reach out to Rochelle about this.
2. We have a new Ambassador joining the Mars Planet Foundation – Jennifer Bainbridge! Welcome to the Foundation!

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 16th at the Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tricia Holland

MPF Secretary