

## Mars Planet Foundation Board Meeting – March 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

### Teacher Grant Presentations

- 1) Mrs. Rosswog – Senior Yard Signs
  - a. The Class of 2021 has not been able to celebrate as usual and we would like to make up for that with a small token from the district. Mrs. Rosswog is asking for funding to cover 275 senior signs, which would also include Mars Cyber students. Mrs. Rosswog is asking for the funding for the beginning of April so they can deliver them to the students on Prom Day, May 7<sup>th</sup>2021. She hopes to get more involvement from the K-12 teachers to do sign distribution due to May 7<sup>th</sup> technically being an in-service day. There will be no academic banquet again this year due to covid restrictions. The Foundation typically spent around \$3,500 on the academic banquet.
  - b. Total Budget Request: \$1,540.00 , 275 signs \$5.60 per sign

### Discussion/Vote on Teacher Grant Proposals

- 1) Discussion regarding Mrs. Rosswog’s request. Since the Seniors had such a difficult year due to Covid, this would be a good option to spread some good will and cheer. Tricia Holland motioned to approve the grant, seconded by Wyatt Lee, all present Board Members voted to approve the grant.
  - a. Mrs. Rosswog’s grant request for \$1,540.00 to purchase 275 senior signs has been approved.

**Previous Minutes** - The Meeting Minutes from February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 were approved at 6:50pm.

### Treasurer Report – Andrea Bowser

We have raised over \$2,500 in dinner fundraisers since late last year. All of the payments to the Dolly Parton foundation are complete. Andrea is currently working on the following projects: 2020 Form 990 Tax preparation, Sales Tax Exemption Certificate, beginning application process with the state, and the PNC Charitable Grant application process (W9 sent, online application is 90% complete).

### **EITC Report - Kevin Hagen**

No update to report - We have not heard if the application has been approved.

### **Scholarship Report – e-mail from Megan**

Next month the foundation will be reviewing the scholarship applications and selecting recipients. Each person in the foundation will get a batch to review and then provide feedback. We will be broken down into groups like last year. Application deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>2021. There are potentially 2 more memorial scholarship being set-up (In Memory of Jake Cooper, In Memory of Clay Morrow).

- 1) Vickie will talk with Megan to see if we reached out to last year's recipients and ask for a video for us to utilize on all of our media platforms(thanking the planet foundation, encourage enrollment of scholarships, etc).
- 2) Kevin will reach out to Mrs. Rosswog about the new scholarship the MPF will be offering.

### **Dolly Parton Foundation Update – Wyatt Lee**

The MPF has ended our agreement with the Dolly Parton Foundation. The organization reached out to Wyatt to discuss a new program they are offering to re-engage foundations in the imagination library program. They would effectively loan the foundation \$15,000 to start the imagination library program back up again. The MPF Foundation board members agreed that this would not be in the best interest of the foundation to re-engage at this time. Additionally, we do not agree with a loan.

### **Walk Around Mars Fundraiser**

- 1) **Medals** - Discussed the multiple medal options available for participants who raise over \$100 for the walk. Tricia provided a pamphlet of 3 of the medal options outlining the differences. Diana brought multiple samples of the medal options she had been researching. A lot of feedback was provided on the medals. Majority of attendees voted for the Half Wreath Medals from Recognition Medals in Pittsburgh. The medal is 2.75", price breakdowns are 10 for \$3.83, 50 for \$3.55.
- 2) **Sponsorship Committee update from Christine Valenta** – Sponsorships are still rolling in. Over 3 dozen donors, response has been overwhelming. The community is very excited and a lot of businesses already have their martians up and decorated.
- 3) **School Liason Committee update from Vickie Zaccari** – This week Vickie is talking to the schools about getting pictures with their martians in front of the school with the name of the school or perhaps the principals included. Dayle suggested getting creative with the Martians around the schools (example: students could do a relay hand off with the martian, etc.)
- 4) **Swag Bag Updates from Diana Jacoby** – Rochelle will pick-up the swag bags on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Diana, Rochelle, Christine, and Vickie will meet at the Treesdale Community Center at 11am on Friday March 19<sup>th</sup> to set up the swag bag products. Masks must be worn the entire time and there is a maximum of 30 people allowed in the building. We will start packing swag bags at 1pm. There are currently 26 items that need placed in the bags and 8 advertisements. Christine has reserved the Middle School fishbowl for Saturday and Sunday as a back-up.
  - a. **Medals** – Half Wreath – 2.75". 10 - \$3.83, 50 - \$3.55, supplier is recognition medals in Pittsburgh, has been chosen as the medal option.



~~the Mars Area School District shall serve initial terms as follows: three shall serve for one (1) year; three shall serve for (2) years; and three shall serve for three (3) years. Therefore, all directors shall serve for terms of three (3) years.~~

Dayle Ferguson motioned to approve the policy changes, seconded by Vickie Zaccari. Board voted to unanimously approve the policy changes.

Kevin will reach out to King's law firm to see what needs to be done to update the by-laws with the state. Once the by-laws are updated, Tricia will send a copy to the School District to keep on file.

**Newsletter** – When is the next newsletter being created/distributed? Next issue of the newsletter would need created and distributed by early April. All material is due to Rochelle by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

- 1) Christine is going to reach out to Chris Churilla & Mrs. Thurber for pictures and feedback regarding their recent teacher grants. She will then right up an article about them.
- 2) Christine will assemble the information regarding the upcoming dinner fundraisers for the Mars Planet Foundation.
- 3) Vickie will reach out to Mrs. Rosswog and ask her to write up a quick excerpt about the grant received for senior signs.
- 4) Vickie will write a quick reminder about scholarships.
- 5) Tricia will write an article about the Walk Around Mars.

**Banner Updates** – A couple of new banners are being installed, a few of the older banners are being taken down. Our new signs are \$50 less now that we are using Sparks Signs.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 at the Administration Building.**

**Respectfully submitted by,**

Tricia Holland

MPF Secretary