



MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

February 20th 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Members	Present	Ambassadors	Present
Beth Ziegler - President	Online	Lee Ann Riner	X
Doug Wolf – Vice President	X	Jenn Giesler	
Amy Riggio - Treasurer	X	Bethany Ratcliffe	
Tricia Holland - Secretary	X	Robin Parsons	
Maura DiGioia		Helianna Galvis-Orr	
Kevin Hagen	X	Kim Vandall	X
Liz Porco	X		
Aaron Rose	X	MASD Admin	
Carol Knox	X	Dr. Elizabeth McMahan	
Vickie Zaccari			

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm.

Meeting Minutes – The Meeting Minutes from January 10th 2024 were discussed.

- ❖ Carol Knox motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Kevin Hagen. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Vote on Board Member Addition

- ❖ Kevin Hagen motioned to add Kim Vandall to the Mars Planet Foundation Board of Directors effective immediately, seconded by Carol Knox. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report – Presented by Amy Riggio

- ❖ Financial report has been e-mailed.
- ❖ Still awaiting invoices from school district.
 - Amy Riggio to send another reminder to Debbie Brandstetter.
- ❖ EITC Financial discussion:
 - Report reflects \$5,190 but we reported \$4,586 reported to the DCED. The \$604 discrepancy results from personal checks issued for AP exam fee reimbursements from years ago that were never cashed. The Renewal Application for the Foundation’s status as an Educational Improvement Organization does not have a way for the Foundation to reflect this \$604 since the only receipts that can be reported are “contributions from business firms earning EITC.” Doug Wolf to reach out to A. Zalar from the DCED about appropriate process for this rollover. We note that the issue should not arise going forward, as the Foundation no longer issues personal checks for reimbursement but rather issues one check to the School District for AP Exam fee reimbursements.
- ❖ \$1,000 check received from Thomas & Williamson - Kevin Hagen to follow-up with Thomas & Williamson to determine where the \$1,000 donation should be applied (i.e., Scoreboard, Banner, General Donation, etc.)

Scholarship Report – Presented by LeeAnn Riner

- ❖ A revised scholarship poster was created for the upcoming Open Houses.
- ❖ Just’n Thyme has been confirmed as the caterer for the academic awards ceremony this year.
- ❖ March 15th is the scholarship application deadline.
- ❖ Mrs. Hatch has confirmed that the Mars Area High School Chemistry, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship, which the Hatch family currently sponsors, will no longer be funded.

The Hatch family has decided to fund this scholarship at the school district that Mrs. Hatch taught at.

- The Foundation humbly thanks the Hatch family for their long-time support of the students of the Mars Area School District .

Fundraising Reports – Presented by Beth Ziegler

- ❖ LEFCON Field Scoreboard – Discussion regarding the new LEFCON Field scoreboard. While the Foundation recognizes the District’s right to manage advertising on the LEFCON Field scoreboard, Board members expressed disappointment at not being provided with the opportunity to manage the advertising on the same. Moreover, Board members voiced disappointment that the foregoing was not communicated to the Foundation by the School Board and/or District administration. Board members would like to improve communication between the Foundation, the School Board and District administration. Beth Ziegler and Doug Wolf to schedule a meeting with Dr. Gross to discuss opportunities for improvement.
- ❖ Scoreboard at the MAC
 - **Confirmed Yes:** Eat n’Park, LEFCON, Paracca Interiors, Kress Restoration
 - **Confirmed No:** UPMC Sports Medicine, Sheetz
- ❖ Received a request from The Goddard School today regarding information about the scoreboard. Beth Ziegler to follow-up.

EITC Report – Presented by Doug Wolf

- ❖ The Nextier check presentation is being targeted for March 12th at 2:45pm. The Foundation board will be notified once the date is finalized so any available board members may attend.
 - The Butler Eagle has been contacted for coverage.

Technology Report – Presented by Kevin Hagen

- ❖ No report.

Communications Report

- ❖ Social Media
 - If any content needs posted to the Mars Planet Foundation Facebook page, please e-mail Maura DiGioia the information.
- ❖ Newsletter
 - The Winter newsletter will be ready for distribution within the week.

Event Reports

- ❖ The Foundation will have a table at the upcoming open houses across the District buildings. Water bottle stickers and Croc charms will be available for purchase.
 - Thursday February 22nd – Middle School Open House (6pm-8pm)
 - Thursday February 29th – MAE Open House (5:45pm-7:45pm)
 - Thursday April 4th – Centennial Open House (5:30pm-7:30pm)
 - Thursday April 18th – Primary Center Open House (5:45pm-7:45pm)

New Business

- ❖ Discussed the necessity of an Administrative Representative from the school district to be present at board meetings due to our by-laws.
 - Beth Ziegler and Doug Wolf to discuss at meeting with Dr. Gross.

Kevin Hagen motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carol Knox. Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 19th 2024, in the Board Room at the MASD Admin building.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tricia Holland