



MARS PLANET FOUNDATION

June 16th 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

Teacher Grant Presentations

- Mrs. Allshouse presented a grant request to create a Mars Area Middle School Garden Club which would utilize the school's existing greenhouse to create hands-on learning experiences while practicing and applying social-emotional learning skills for the students in the Emotional Support and Autistic Support classrooms together with their non-disabled peers.
 - Mrs. Allshouse is requesting \$2,003.74 to cover the curriculum, infrastructure, plant care, and class materials.

Special Presentation by Tim Barley – Softball Tournament to benefit special education

- Mr. Barley proposed a softball tournament to raise \$8,000 to purchase a large "Clear Touch Panel" to support Special Education and Technology at Mars.
 - Mr. Barley proposed that all money go through the Mars Planet Foundation.

Grant Discussions

- Discussion regarding Mrs. Allshouse's grant request for the Middle School Garden Club.
 - Carol Knox motioned to approve Mrs. Allshouse's grant for \$2,003.74. The motion was seconded by Wyatt Lee. Unanimously approved by all present board members.
- Discussion regarding Mr. Barley's proposal. Concern expressed with timeline and liability.
 - Christine Valenta motioned to table Mr. Barley's request, seconded by Wyatt Lee. Unanimously approved by all present board members.

Previous Minutes - The Meeting Minutes from May 16th, 2021 were discussed.

- Carol Knox motioned to approve, seconded by Wyatt Lee. Unanimously approved by all present board members.

Treasurer Report – Andrea Bowser

- 12/31/20 Form 990 return is completed and filed.
- Kevin Hagen and Tricia Holland are to be added as Authorized Signers on the Foundation's bank account.

EITC Report - Kevin Hagen

- Nextier sent their promotional check to utilize for a photo op.

Scholarship Report – e-mail from Megan Lenz

- All scholarships have been awarded.
- Appreciation was expressed for all of Megan Lenz's hard work on the scholarships.

Fundraising Reports

- **Give 180 Fundraiser** – Recommended budget is between \$1,800 to \$2,000. Looking to send letter to 5,000 residences in the district. PGC offered the best price for the creation, printing, and mailing of the letter. Tricia Holland is applying for non-profit status with USPS. A draft of the letter will be sent to the board on 06/15/2021 for review.

New Business

- Kevin Hagen is proposing the following amendment to the by-laws; Section 2.13. – Non-partisan. In order to maintain the Foundation's 501©(3) status, board members are "prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in – or intervening in – any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for elective public office" while working on behalf of the Foundation. Additionally, the Foundation shall not take a position on any public policy statements. No action taken at this time.
- Discussed the July foundation meeting which currently conflicts with the School Board meeting. Christine Valenta motioned to cancel the meeting, seconded by Wyatt Lee. Unanimously approved by all present board members.
- Internship Opportunity – Discussed acquiring an intern from Slippery Rock University to assist with social media. Tricia Holland has begun the process with SRU and will complete it over the next few weeks so the Foundation can have an intern for the Fall semester.
- General discussion ensued regarding the current number of Board Members, and the current number of seats reserved for the Mars Area School Board members. There was discussion on potentially limiting the number of school board seats and adding community members and determining what positions we want filled and then advertising for the specific position. Minimum contribution levels and attendance requirement were also discussed.
- Andrea Bowser announced that she will be stepping down as Treasurer from the Mars Planet Foundation effective January 1, 2022. Andrea is going to assemble a job description that the Foundation will use to advertise the open seat. The board expresses its appreciation for Mrs. Bowser's service to the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 17th 2021 at the Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tricia Holland

MPF Secretary