**COUNCIL MEETING**

**1/16/24 @ 7:31 PM**

Officers: President Mike Huber, VP Steve Coxon, Treasurer Ian Eggert, David Steele

Council members: Andrej Spec, Bob Watson, Matthew Montoya Rush, Melanie Holmes, Mitch Wendel.

Appointees: Auction Mike Hellweg, Editor Micah Issitt, Show chair Lora Watson.

Guest: Charles Harrison, Steve Edie, and Chuck Bremer

**SECRETARY**

David Steele made a motion to waive the reading of secretary minutes, Andrej 2nd the motion, motion approved.

**TREASURER (Audit Committee)**

Worked with Mike Hellweg and Jack to get through all the accounts, old reports, and running expenses to get current, accurate, and balanced.

After Ian provided an updated report on MASI’s fiscal outlook, discussions were had regarding diversifying and exploring current market offerings that can help grow MASI treasury.

David Steele moved the previous question. Steve motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, Mike Hellweg 2nd Motion to approve

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Council meeting is Nov. 2, Dec. 21, Feb. 1

Next auction is Nov 4

Micah shared that Art of Aquaria would like to plan a kids Halloween event

**Darter – Micah Issitt**

Would like to give free digital Darter subscriptions to high school students for outreach, education, and community engagement. Target audience will be STL metro area schools/teachers. Matthew and Micah will maintain and update a spreadsheet of recipients.

Next Darter will have an article from Select Aquatic from Greg Sage. Matthew and Micah are also collaborating and working to redesign Sage’s logo. Micah connected with an MDC writer for their Wet Ones magazines and will facilitate submission of volunteer articles; will try to focus on fisheries and conservation.

November 1st Deadline for next Darter

**Advertisement and Social Media – Mitch**

NN2R

**Members & Welcoming Bob**

NN2R

**Swap Mitch**

NN2R will have updates soon

**Auction Mike Hellweg**

Mike Hellweg asked who is making flyers. Mike Huber prints them after Kelly/Megan design and forward to Mike.

October 14th is when members can start signing up.

Mike Huber asked of rumors of people buying ads in the Darter and getting free auction number through the Darter, Mike Hellweg confirmed that that’s never happened

**BAP and HAP Mike Hellweg**

Mike Hellweg shared that points are a little different, as seen in the last Darter. Steve has been updating the nomenclature of the fish/plant ID, and has found lots of new genera (such as Cherry Barbs), and people will find that their points are going up. We’ve had some submission points being adjusting downward because competing big plant/fish cultivating/breeding companies are selling the same species with differing names, with hybrids (ex: different names for same color varieties)

Steve Edie plans on stepping down from BAP, and discussions were had regarding Mike Hellweg stepping into the BAP, especially since Mike has been assisting Steve for a significant amount of time.

Mike Hellweg did point out the need for volunteers for BAP/HAP committee to assist.

Mike huber accepted Mike Hellweg’s offer of taking over as BAP Chair, council approved it. Steve and Hellweg will work on transition to ensure its smoothness

**Exchange Matthew**

David Farel feels like it’s an underutilized resource, and had an idea of increasing collaboration by selecting best articles and sharing them among different magazines.

**Library/Points Tabulation/Refreshments Mike Huber**

NN2R

**List Master Micah**

NN2R

**Speakers Steve**

Next meeting guest has not yet confirmed. Rest of speakers confirmed. No speaker for December. Micah will be our local speaker in January. All speaker slots booked through April 2024.

**YouTube Channel Matthew**

Need to get new advert out for change in speaker talk.

**Web master Charles**

Updates made. Would like a new picture of Mike Hellweg.

**Bowl Show – Lora**

Lora sent the rules to Micah for Darter to be in the next issue. Micah offered to create and send out advertising for social media. Micah will also send the rules to Charles for the website. Rule discussions were had on both monthly bowl shows and special event bowl shows. Monthly awards are paper certificates. Special events are cash prize and ribbons and certificates. Both ribbons and certificates are tallied for a grand prize.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Par Meter – Mike Huber inquired about the status of the Par Meter we ordered. Steve updated that he has it and has been lending it out to members and is in care and control of it.

Bob asked about locating our speakers and other A/V equipment. Mike Hellweg and Steve Coxon provided updates as to its location.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Steve – coming up an application for people who want to apply for MASI grants, with the goal to standardize

* Due to time constraints, would like to discuss next month

Steve – idea to auto-renew memberships

* Due to time constraints, would like to discuss next month

Steve – Joel Sartore and NatGeo photographer has interest in Betta, and would like to come to STL to photograph our rare fish/wild type bettas/CARES fish (everything that he does not have). Would like to create a spreadsheet for us to complete to send to him to let him know what members have

Mike Hellweg nominated Steve Edie for MASI Fellow. Has been a committed member for 25 years and spent 20 years as BAP chairman, growing the program to one of the top programs in North America. Steve Coxon 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Matthew asked about nomination process, whether to standardize a specific time frame or open rolling ability to nominate. Mike Hellweg shared that we’re playing catchup but will transition to once a year eventually.

David brought up the idea of normalizing need quiet during speaker – go outside, hallway not proper anymore.

Lora reminded council members to check their emails regarding the Branson

Mike Hellweg made motion to adjourn, Michael Issitt 2nd, adjourned at 9:27