**COUNCIL MEETING**

**11/2/23 @ 7:46 PM**

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

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

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

Guest: Chuck Bremer

**SECRETARY**

David Steele read the captivating minutes. Mike Hellweg made a motion to approve. Ian 2nd. Motion passed.

**TREASURER**

Ian shared the current financials through a spreadsheet presentation. Steve motion to approve report. Micah 2nd. Motion passed.

After Ian gave the report, with the last detail regarding credit/debit David asked about a mini-presentation on the Branson trip at the next general meeting to help with disseminating the money saved for members and advertising for future events. Mike Huber shared that Lora will be sharing the trip success at next months meeting. Micah also offered to incorporate the Branson trip on the Darter as well. Bob stated Lora will work with Micah on that.

Mike Huber shared that there was fantastic feedback on the trip. An idea for a trip to Tennessee could be viable, but may be costlier.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next Council meeting is Nov. 30, Jan 18 before meeting: Feb 1; Feb 29

Auction is Saturday November 4th

Next swap is Jan 6th

**Darter – Micah Issitt**

Needs President Huber’s message. Greg Sage article is 24 pages, may need to be split into multiple issues. Next issues will have an article written on Newts, as well as a Betta article. Mitch will provide Swap details to Micah.

Would like to incorporate HAP/BAP more to encourage people to reach out when the reader sees something that spawned, reach out to Darter, and Darter can see about reaching out to grower to write an article/how-to guide.

**Corresponding - Jeremy**

Jeremy was not present to share news, as he is at Aquashella helping set up. Mike Hellweg and Mitch shared that numerous items were donated. Steve still has a few OASE filters and lots of driftwood from over-ordering for Balen Shaw event. Mitch gave Jeremy items as well. David asked if maintaining an inventory was possible, it was explained by council that due to the fluctuating nature of various inventory, it would not be feasible.

Council engaged in discussions, led by Micah on how to formalize donations in exchange for Darter advertising

**Advertisement and social media – Mitch**

No news to report for advertisement and social media. Kelly is doing fantastic on social media. Micah highlighted the importance to keep the social media calendar dates current.

**Members & Welcoming Bob**

No news to report.

**Swap Mitch**

No news to report.

**Auction Mike Hellweg**

Volunteers for auction at 8:30am and for breakdown. David raised a concern regarding auctioneers’ ability to maintain a level of enthusiasm to ensure crowd engagement.

**BAP and HAP Mike Hellweg**

Mike Hellweg shared that it has been quiet, but is still working with Steve on transition. Learning a lot on HAP

**Exchange Matthew**

No news to report, no development on larger exchange collaborations

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

Pizza and drinks will be provided. Matthew mentioned the need to remind people of inventory to have accurate list.

Mike Hellweg updated that MASI laptop/computer is unusable, and asked what to do with it. Steve Coxon will collect the laptop from Mike Hellweg for donation/refurbishment for Maryville program

Ian opened proposal to purchase a new MASI Laptop, with a max budget of $1000. Steve made motion to pass. Micah 2nd motion. David opposed.

**List Master Micah**

NN2R

**Speakers Steve**

Updated on minor speaker shifts. Greg Sage for November. None December. Micah in January. Michi Tobler for February. Rick Borstein in March. Tentative speakers for March and April. Robust discussions were had about increasing speaker stipends from $100 to $300 due to the reality of increased costs of simply existing on this dying planet.

Steve made a proposal to increase the stipend made. Mitch made motion. Micah 2nd. Motion passed.

**YouTube Channel Matthew**

Started going through older content and putting out new content. Is prioritizing demand by putting out a survey for feedback from members on what they want to see first. Mike and Chuck needed some clarification on needs for Pet Connections and Pet Supplies Plus. Mike is currently creating a list of LFS that gives MASI space to put our event fliers.

**Web master Charles**

Not present

**Bowl Show – Lora**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Steven Coxon brought up for consideration on normalizing grant application for teachers and a rolling auto-renewal for membership. Discussions were tabled.

Mike Huber asked Micah about business cards from local fish stores for Darter

**NEW BUSINESS**

Micah brought up the idea of having a go to MASI member or helpline to assist members with fish disease/injury questions. Micah thought of exploring whether Charles would entertain the idea of being the go to person so that accurate and correct information can be disseminated to members. David volunteered to monitor Band for fish questions and to call Charles by phone, due to Charles’ preference for liaising by phones. Matthew offered to create graphics for the common diseases/infections – for the typical low hanging fruit questions. Mike Huber thought of Mark Simmons, due to his knowledge with aquatic medication as well.

Mike Hellweg had a question regarding handling fish rescue due to a current member’s unavailability. Ben Cook is the person.

Matthew reminded council regarding progress on MASI logos ideas. Kelly and Micah will work with Matthew. Mike Hellweg also offered to assist.

Mike Huber wanted to bring up the idea for charter clubs. Many members live too far for general meetings, and asked about charter club meetings. Mike shared that in the past, people did inquire, but legwork rested with main MASI and resulted in no follow-on from distant members. The idea is a good one, but will require a clear division of responsibilities. In the meantime, MASI will gladly provide technical assistance for distant groups of members to start their own hobby organization to include starting up their BAP/HAP programs.

David brought up idea of using multimedia to assist with auctions, to where we can rely on the HAP/BAP list and link it to photos of mature versions, or with market prices of certain items, so help educate interested buyers. It also helps alleviate the pressure for auctioneer to “sell” the item.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Hellweg, 2nd by Lora Watson. Adjourned at 10:13pm