**COUNCIL MEETING**

**2/29/24 @ 7:31 PM**

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

Council members**:** Matthew Montoya Rush,Mitch Wendel, Andrej Spec (apologetically late)

Appointees: Auction Mike Hellweg, Editor Micah Issitt, Bob and Lora Watson (barely late)

Guest: Charles Harrison, and Chuck Bremer

Next council meetings: April 4, May 2, May 30, June 27 (1 week early due to July 4th)

Announcements: Picnic May 4, FORC Budget May11, Hobbie Days April 20&21

**SECRETARY**

Secretary David Steele read last month’s minutes resulting in tears of joy and a unanimous vote to approve the minutes, with Mike Hellweg making the motion, and Mitch 2nd.

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Ian Eggert gleefully and shared specifics financial numbers for the diversified accounts, income and revenue for the month, and total expenditures.

A question was asked about a POC for MASI to give the MASI Challenge check to. Chuck will receive an updated POC through asking Mickey. The MASI Challenge was a project coming out of Australia.

Steve Coxon made a motion to approve. Lora 2nd. Micah shouted, almost battle-cry like, in opposition. Motion passed.

Ian inadvertently did not include refreshment income from January’s swap but will provide an update ASAP. Motion to table the Treasurer’s report on our previous month activity was made so that Ian can update and balance the activity.

Next month in the financial activity will include the laptop purchase and accessories. Ian, Chuck, and Mike will get together to set up the laptop to make it Auction ready.

Ian finally got ahold of the relevant info for our insurance and has updated all the info needed.

At 8:18pm Ian interrupted Auction information to share that he had updated and completed the monthly financials. With a net result of only being down for the month by a mere 8200 pennies. Motion to approve made by Micah 2nd  by Mike Huber

**EDITOR**

NN2R. But Micah said he needed Mike Hellweg’s article before deadline. Micah shared that David Farel enlisted loach enthusiasts to write in depth articles and contribute to Darter. No communication update from Botanical Gardens yet on the potential partnership.

Lora asked Micah for a list for the bowl shows.

**CORRESPONDING**

Not present, no notice – David Farel signified interest in taking over the position and will wield the full power of Corresponding positions in MASI: Darter Corresponding Editor and MASI Corresponding Chair. Micah will confirm.

David Steele made motion to remove a long absent member of council, mitch 2nd, motion passed unanimously. Kok and Charles are next in the Council election votes tally.

**ADVERTISING, SOCIAL MEDIA**

Kelly NN2R

**SWAP**

NN2R, all paid up. No holding spots anymore.

**AUCTION**

Asked if anyone had any questions on the result of the auction, Going through PayPal went smoothly on payments, with only minor trouble on our end with PayPal thinking there might’ve been suspicious activities.

Next Auction April 20/21

Question was asked about allowing vendors to submit their swap items that don’t sell into the auction, and the idea was not well received, as we don’t want to overburden the auction with more than 500 items.

On 8:22 we returned to Auction discussions after Ian’s interruption.

More perspectives regarding the quality of leftover swap items put into the auctions were discussed. Mike H shared that there’s real no benefit to extend last minute auction entrants from unsold swap items. Silent auction item expansion by 2 was offered as an opportunity for additional items to be included, this idea was met with general positive feedback.

**MEMBERSHIP**

NN2R – on behalf of new Membership Co-chairs

**HAP/BAP**

**EXCHANGE - LIBRARY – REFRESHMENTS**

NN2R about Exchange from David Farel. Mike Huber reminded David Steele about assisting with digital cataloguing our library. MMR asked about creating an inventory of MASI equipment for internal use and library rental use.

Steve Coxon offered a motion to purchase 2 books (https://belowwater-shop.square.site/product/xingu-book-the-amazon-book-below-water-/3?), unanimous approval.

**POINTS TABULATOR**

Huber remind the respective Chairs that can count fishy bucks to submit the updates to Megan Moncure for calculation.

**WEBMASTER**

Charles asked for confirmation that council’s contact info on the website is accurate. Mike asked for Bowl Show info to be on the site, Charles said he needs the info from Lora. Charles also needs info about Fishy/Hobby Days.

Mike Huber asked Charles to update the BAP rules, since they were removed, but now confirmed to use old Rules.

**LISTMASTER**

NN2R

**SPEAKERS**

Steve shared an updated list of speakers, and Micah literally gushed over all of them, uncontrollably.

**YouTube**

NN2R, still would like ideas to do interviews and fish tours.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Steve wanted to bring up idea about rolling/renewing membership through PayPal. Ian said through PayPal is at the same annual time. Topic was tabled for future consideration

URL Website for Darter, Micah is still exploring options and requested time to give more in depth details.

Insulated bags: Mike Huber shared we are out. Made by a local company. Bob made motion to purchase 50 bags, Mike Hellweg 2nd, David Steele opposed due to possibility of paying taxes even though we’re exempt. Motion passed. A 2-tiered price was implemented: $20/non-members; $15/members

Andrej expense donation for advertising – Andrej shared GoogleAd grants, to fill out the application to get free online advertising, and requesting permission to apply for the grant. David asked who will manage it. Andrej volunteered to manage it, with a MASI member willing to volunteer and works in non-profit marketing. Andrej made motion to approve, Bob 2nd. Motion passed.

Mitch brought up the topic of removing points that were initially counted towards HAP, with Mitch sharing that once points are rewarded at the time, it’s not best practices to remove them upon recalculation/updated fish species points. After robust and positive discussions, a consensus was reached where BAP scoring should focus on positive outcomes for submissions by members. The feedback will be taken back to BAP committee for consideration in their next meeting when updating and refining the BAP rules. Mike Huber shared that points can’t be taken away, as it has to be voted at council, with some members expressing that removal of points should only be limited to 2023, if at all.

Mike Hellweg remained committed towards looking forward and not backwards in regards to points tabulation, but needs time to sit down and go through the records.

Discussion was tabled to give BAP committee time to incorporate council’s perspective.

Date for fishy bucks event was discussed, with 3 days to consider.

Now that we’re 501c3, we need to fill out the form, but may be missing certain financial details for past 3 years. David Steele volunteered to take over the fun times from Mike Hellweg

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lora needs help on hobby day, David Steele confirmed that he will man the door and ensure only volunteers are allowed entry during set up. David shared the idea of fishy bucks only going to volunteers that pre-sign up with Lora, day of volunteers get no points, but do still get infinite hugs from a Watson of their choice.

Discussion for member of the year nomination – Bob and others shared the idea to send out a email reminder or Darter reminder for nominations.

Steve Coxon brought up the topic of fish rooms, forwarded email from Carlyn, but tables for next month’s old business to discuss.

Mike Huber brought up the topic of helping Peoria fish club, and are in dire need of help of how to run the organization, assist with speakers, and monetary donations. Mike Hellweg expressed that our technical assistance is more available for them, but financial support is not in the best interest of the club. Bob shared they are struggling with attendance and getting members in that are able to contribute to its support. Mitch brought up the idea of in-kind support through Darter advertising of their events.

Matthew Montoya Rush brought up council meeting dates and wanted council to consider to make it 1st Thursday of every month. Only exception is June 27, due to July 4. Motion to approve made by Matthew Montoya Rush 2nd by David Steele.

Mitch brought up, for future consideration, different signage for our events, as we’ve received feedback that our signs are difficult to see. Andrej offered to purchase and donate to MASI a fish costume if Mitch agrees to utilize the costume in lieu of signage.

Motion to close made by Matthew Montoya Rush, 2nd by Lora, meeting adjourned 10:24pm