**COUNCIL MEETING**

**4/4/24 @ 7:31 PM**

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

Council members**:** Matthew Montoya Rush,Andrej Spec (earlier than last month, but still late, but is at AGA, so effectively on time), Melanie Holmes, Micah Issitt arrived 48 minutes late.

Appointees: Auction Mike Hellweg, Bob and Lora Watson

Guest: Charles Harrison, and Chuck Bremer

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

Announcements: NNA

**SECRETARY**

Secretary David Steele read last month’s phenomenally transcribed minutes. Mike Hellweg making the motion, and Matthew Montoya Rush 2nd. Motion Passed

**TREASURER**

Treasurer Ian Eggert expertly presented the February 2024 statement, giving details of our various checking and savings accounts. Our 3 different CD’s are still there and earning interest. Paypal income stream is healthy. The state of our finances are strong and stable. And Ian finished with a confident proclamation “there’s our money.” Lora motioned to Approve. Bob 2nd. Approved.

Ian, resting upon the encouragement of council, continued to share details of February 2024 statement of activities, with the word Triannual said numerous times. Lora made motion. Steve 2nd. Motion passed.

**EDITOR**

Was not able to attend. In place, MMR provided news about Darter, and apologized about the HAP/BAP oversight mix-up, but the oversight will not occur again. Darter presence is growing, with more submissions to Darter. One of Darter articles was highlighted in Modern Aquarium with credit. Next deadline will be May 1st. MMR would like to put out a few special edition Darters. Someone thought Betelgeuse 3 times, and Micah appeared (at 8:18pm) and shared that for Darter submissions last month were really late, and moving forward the Editor will be forced to cut the submission as last minute additions are not sustainable.

**CORRESPONDING**

MMR on behalf of David stated NNR

**ADVERTISING, SOCIAL MEDIA**

Kelly NN2R

**SWAP**

Lora shared that Mitch updated that there are around 36 tables secured so far. Mike Hellweg that members have erroneously tried to make paypal payments to the wrong MASI email account, but has been able to forward the payers to Mitch to rectify

**AUCTION**

We’re already at 350+ items. Volunteers needed starting 9am, not 10am – check-in at 9am. Discussion was continued about increasing silent auction items by 2 and decreasing auction items. Paypal payments interest is seeming to be the preferred method. Mike Huber suggested to do a trial run. Due to the upcoming auction being so soon, it was generally agreed that any trial for increases would be better suited for the November auction, and Mike Hellweg tables this discussion until closer to November

**HAP/BAP**

Mike Hellweg and Bob will find time to get together and focus on formalizing the points and standard for BAP. The bags have arrived and are ready for sale.

**EXCHANGE**

NN2R about Exchange from David Farel. Better distribution and collaboration. Micah shared that Charles’ article was the one that was printed in Modern Aquarium.

**POINTS TABULATOR - REFRESHMENTS**

NN2R

**WEBMASTER**

Charles needs speaker updates, and asked if anything new needed to be included about Hobby Days weekends.

**LISTMASTER**

NN2R. Mike Huber asked: When Darter is sent out, do advertisers get the Darter, Micah confirmed they do. Mike Huber asked if Ozark Aquarium Design were included, Micah said no, but will connect to rectify any issues. Chuck shared that we missed some Pet Supply but work to correct it.

**SPEAKERS**

Steve shared that Andrej Spec will be an upcoming speaker at Hobby Days. Denis Wong and Anthony Mazeroll will be a speaker as well.

Bob asked if we’re going to have an Aquascaping course, but no plans currently. Lora asked about Bowl show. Neither are on the website, Bob and Steve assented to Lora’s demand to let her provide the info to Charles about the Bowl Show.

MMR asked if the speakers are open to YouTube livestream, and is all set up. Steve will inquire and hope they will be happy to do so.

Tyrone Genade was recently confirmed as an upcoming speaker. Micah again gushed uncomfortably about another upcoming speaker.

**YouTube**

NN2R, but updated that MMR will be unfortunately moving to ABQ, NM next January, with the hopes that Nate Cook, but really Ben Cook, will be trained to take over. MMR owns the microphones, so will need to consider replacement options. MMR’s current recording set up is between $200-$300.

Steve shared that we have a great thing with YouTube, with great content. Micah highlighted our difficulty in promoting our content. Micah shared the first step would be to have a marketing position within the club.

Conversation shifted towards marketing of Darter and Youtube videos and a health productive conversation was had regarding outreach and engaging membership base and other social groups to seek out interest in someone becoming a full-time “hype person” for MASI.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Kok was unable to fill the open council position, and Mike Huber asked if Charles Harrison would like to assume the council position, to which he graciously accepted the position.

Steve Coxon brought up Carlyn’s idea of re-starting a fish room tour day. Mike Hellweg shared that it used to set up on a Saturday, with a group of homes in the same area, with a selected lunch spot as a break, repeated every few months in different areas of the STL region. Stop at a home for about an hour. It would require coordination and a volunteer to lead the programming.

Mike Huber asked Micah about the URL for the Darter. Micah said very slowly due to his inability to navigate user-friendly wordpress plug-in. A platform called Card was not successful, despite its affordable price of $19. He’s now working with a marketing guy minor hobbyist guy that’s helping him select a simply drag and drop interface for website design. Micah is officially still in the exploratory stage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mike Huber shared member of the year nominations Andrej nominated Micah. Mark Abed nominated Andrej and Lora. Mike Hellweg nominated Steve Coxon.

Melanie shared that her friend Tim would like to open up his warehouse and space for a fun day event for aquascaping and camaraderie. Melanie will connect and inquire about a good time frame for this trip. The location is Lawrence, KS.

Motion to close made by Steve Coxon, 2nd by Micah, meeting adjourned 9:27pm