

**The Nature Foundation of Will County  
Minutes of the March 24, 2021 Regular Meeting  
Conducted by Zoom Conferencing and Conference Call**

Treasurer Jim Flax called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Flax led the pledge to the flag.

Roll was called. Ten Directors were present. A quorum of seven voting Directors was present.

Voting Directors Present: Marcy DeMauro; Ann Dralle; Jim Flax; Ed Garner; Ragan Pattison; Donna Theimer; and Jeff Tuminello.

Non-voting Directors Present: Don Gould; Meta Mueller; and Ralph Schultz.

Others Present: Cindy Harn, Executive Director.

**Approval of Minutes**

DeMauro motioned to defer approval of the January 27, 2021 minutes to the next Board meeting as a portion of the minutes were not included in the agenda packet. Tuminello seconded the motioned. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Reports of Officers**

*Chairperson's Report* - There was no Chairperson's report.

*Treasurer's Report*

Harn reviewed three financial reports provided in the agenda packet: the Balance Sheet Financial Report (dated February 26, 2021); Quarterly Statement of Activity (dated March 16, 2021); and the Budget vs. Actual Report (dated March 16, 2021). Dralle moved to accept the three financial reports as presented, seconded by Theimer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Harn presented the schedule of bills for the period January 20 – March 17, 2021 as provided in the agenda packet. Harn also reported that \$45,000 was transferred from the checking account to the money market account, and the Foundation's CD was renewed for six months at an interest rate of 0.140% with a renewal date of August 7, 2021. Theimer moved to approve the schedule of bills, as presented, in the amount of \$2,633.20, seconded by Dralle. The motion was approved.

**Committee Reports**

*Fundraising and Projects Committee* – Harn reported on the status of the upcoming on-line native plant seminars, and the on-line native plant sale including marketing materials, sponsors, and raffle sale. Harn noted that the first on-line native plant sale is on the same trajectory as previous in-person sale events in terms of the number of sales' tickets; we will sell out of plant material.

*Finance Committee Report* - There was no Committee report.

*Board Development Committee* - There was no Committee report.

## **Old Business**

There was no Old Business.

## **New Business**

*Approve Grant Awards for the 2021 Restore Will County Land Stewardship Small Grants Program as Presented in Exhibit A*

Harn reported that four grant applications were received, reviewed by the Forest Preserve District, and are recommended for funding. Sufficient funds are available. Garner motioned to approve the four grants totaling \$2,408, seconded by Theimer. The motion was approved. Harn also proposed funds be held in reserve for new stewards and the repair of equipment over the next year. Pattison motioned to approve the reserve of up to \$2,000 as recommended, seconded by DeMauro. Motion was approved.

## **Reports**

Harn reported that a Serve Will County Youth Services Grant application was submitted by Eagle Scout Peter Mars to build an 18<sup>th</sup> century period replica of a flower cart/wheelbarrow for the Isle a la Cache Museum. As this request was received between Board meetings and there were timing issues, Harn administratively approved the grant of \$491.01, which is 75% of the total project cost (\$654.68).

**Presentations** – None

**Comments by Directors** - None

**Comments by the Public** - None

## **Comments by the Executive Director**

Harn reviewed scheduled dates for upcoming programs and events as provided on the agenda. Flax commented that he is a judge in the Foundation-sponsored art show that is currently ongoing at the Plum Creek Nature Center. Thirty-five entries were submitted. You can view the great art pieces created for the show as the nature center is open to visitors.

## **Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting dates of the Foundation are Wednesday, May 26, and Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m. on a motion from Theimer, a second by Dralle and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marcella M. DeMauro*

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Secretary