

Attendance:

Dennis Ferraro, Andrea Faas, Jocelyn Harrison, Denise Pecha, Andrea Faas, Vicki Von Loh, Mike Schrad, Matt Jones, Brice Krohn, Austen Hill, Dawn Bryant, Carolyn Smith, Karen Klein

Program Budget:

Dennis reported that there are 3 accounts.

- 1) \$2,399 Revolving account to be used by 6/30/20
- 2) \$10,000 Game and Parks, also to be used by 6/30/20
- 3) \$13,500 NET grant

Dennis clarified that the \$10,000 from Game and Parks is currently designated for training materials, however, it was discussed with a representative from Game and Parks that the Master Naturalist Program could use that \$10,000 for Matt's salary. Matt is currently on administrative leave due to UNL's coronavirus policy.

Nebraska Master Naturalist Program may not know until June 2020 whether NET will give approval for the grant's extension. Brice and Dennis agreed, that in their opinions, there would be a 90% chance that NET's Board would extend the grant, and the remaining \$13,500 could then go to pay Matt's salary.

There was a verbal agreement from Brice that The Crane Trust would give \$5,000 to the Nebraska Master Naturalist Program, but he had yet to receive a contract. The University will create an invoice for Crane Trust at Dennis's request.

Austen Hill reviewed the agreement between the Master Naturalist Program and NRD. It states that NRD will present a total of \$7,000, spread over 2 years, to the Program. He found that he had not yet received an invoice to NRD. Dennis has agreed to request the invoice from the University in the amount of \$3,500.

Mike Schrad reported Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundation has \$5000 with \$1200 of that in the Calendar Fund. He mentioned that the entire amount might be used by the Foundation to pay for Matt's salary.

The Board determined that by combining the \$10,000 from Game and Parks, the \$5000 from Crane Trust, and the \$3,500 from NRD, that the Program would be able to cover the University's second invoice of \$17,500.

Foundation's Budget:

\$5,000 total and \$1,200 in the Calendar Fund.

Progress report on grants:

Mike Schrad reported that the Foundation had contracted with Liz Lang to do prospecting and grant writing. Her wage is \$100/hr, no more than a total of \$2,500. So far she has found 8 potential grantors, and the Foundation expects that most grantors will receive the Foundation's grant applications before 6/30/2020. At this time, they are Lincoln area groups that have a history of donating to groups such as ours, Omaha will be the next area targeted for funds.

The following funding sources were identified by Liz Lang:

Ackley Foundation for \$10,000
Rogers Foundation for \$10,000
Pegler Foundation for \$5000
Woodman Foundation
Abel Foundation
Abbott Foundation
Lincoln Community Foundation (to contact in mid June)

Liz Lang communicated that there would be a 25% chance of procuring grants from each of the 8 targeted organizations.

Unfortunately, The Nebraska Master Naturalist Foundation received word from the Cooper Foundation that their grant request was denied.

Board suggested Walmart, Hyvee and Scheels as funding sources. Plus, Carolyn Smith asked her son for possible funding asks and he provided several names. Carolyn will email those to Vicki Von Loh.

Karen Klein identified a generous donor who has pledged \$2,000.

Trainings:

Due to the shutdown all trainings are cancelled until 8/1/20. Cedar Point is closed down. The first training that can be completed as scheduled is in October 2020 at Schramm Park. Matt reported that the Master Naturalist Program could add another CORE training in November.

Junior Master Naturalist Program:

There was a discussion with varying opinions about whether Junior Master Naturalist program would act as the leg to stand on for the Program as a whole. Dennis explained that in his view, the Junior Master Naturalist program could offer the definitive answer to the grantor's question, "What are they wanting us to fund?" There was also the sentiment, that given the financial state of things, this program might have to be tabled for now. Austen communicated that he would facilitate a meeting with the education committee, his timeline for the next phase is August.

Recommendations regarding which schools to target: Montessori Preschools, Legacy School, Prairie Hill School and Hamilton Heights in Omaha. A possible funding source might be Montessori schools. Andrea asked what we would charge for the Junior Master Naturalist program and there was no definitive answer. Board Members questioned how the program's revenues could be sustainable.

Per discussions on the video trainings for CORE trainings and the video trainings for Junior Master Naturalist programs, Jocelyn Harrison offered to help the Program and education committee by sharing her experience with her 'digital learning' programs that she is working on at the Omaha Zoo. Jocelyn also emphasized that digital learning is not just being purchased by homeschoolers anymore, but several audiences.

Chapter news:

Karen Klein reported that it was very difficult to get nominations for officers this time, and that the election has been completed, additionally they are planning an officer transition meeting. Karen discussed that everyone is frustrated this year, given the coronavirus, and answering the questions "what will we do and what will be cancelled?" leaving the path forward uncertain.

Video equipment presentation:

Matt Jones spoke with several professional photographers to get their opinions on the different types of video equipment that Nebraska Master Naturalists would need to complete their video trainings. He presented a comprehensive comparison of video equipment packages across price points.

It is anticipated that a few, future Master Naturalists, will prefer the CORE video trainings over in person training. Dennis said that these video trainings will be twice the price as in person training. Having Master Naturalists produce these videos would be a way the Master Naturalist Foundation could earn donations, if the volunteer would donate his/her earnings. Additionally the Program would offer a different and new volunteer opportunity in video production. Master Naturalists, who are also educators, could work collaboratively with another Master Naturalist volunteer, who is technologically gifted, to produce training videos.

Future Board meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, July 9th, (uncertain where given the current health shutdown.