

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:00 P.M.

R.E. Olds Anderson Rotary Barn

5739 Old Lansing Road

Lansing, Michigan 48917

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:45 P.M. – Quorum established with 22 members present in person.
- II. **NEW BUSINESS:** N/A
- III. **MINUTES:** Approval of 2022 Annual Member Meeting Minutes
Motion to Approve – Judy Gigante, 2nd – Emma Campbell (100% APPROVED)
- IV. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Kevin Wernet**
 - a. 2023 was a milestone year for Woldumar as it marked its 60th anniversary. It provided the Woldumar staff with an opportunity to look at the archives and reflect on Woldumar’s history.
 - b. Special recognition to Allie Shigley (program manager) for her leadership in managing a camp program with more kids participating than ever in 2023. Another special mention to Victoria Churchill (hospitality manager) for achieving successful rentals in 2023.
 - c. The Board approved additional investment in staff in 2023, and also approved investment in improvements to Woldumar’s facilities, including a new roof for the R.E. Olds Anderson Rotary Barn and a new boat for the camp program.
 - d. Highlight of 2023 is the momentum that Woldumar has and the increased bandwidth to actively move toward the goals of Woldumar as an organization.
- V. **CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT: Kevin Goodwin**
 - a. Thank you to Executive Director Kevin Wernet for his enthusiasm and passion for Woldumar and the mission of Woldumar.
 - b. Special recognition to the Woldumar staff for their work and their unrivaled ability to multitask.
 - c. Highlight of 2023 was revisiting the Woldumar strategic planning and meeting with the Board and staff to have engaging discussions regarding the future of Woldumar.
 - d. Looking forward to continuing to pick up the pace to reach goals, increase rentals, and future growth due to the Development Director role (previously held by Robin Carey, and now held by Lauren Smith).
- VI. **TREASURER’S REPORT: Jason Wilkinson**
 - a. Woldumar is in a strong financial position.
 - b. Although the 2022/2023 financials reflect expenses exceeding revenue by approximately \$60,000, this is primarily due to the timing of expenses and not a concern.
 - c. There is a need for a new Endowment Trustee (only 2 of 3 Endowment Trustee positions currently filled).

- d. Encourage members to consider what they can do to help Woldumar do the next “big thing” (such as capital improvements), including contributing to the endowment fund and bringing in more members to Woldumar.

VII. **ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE’S REPORT: J.B. McCombs**

- a. Summary of the history of the endowment trust fund, initially created in 2001.
- b. As of November 2023, the endowment trust fund had a value of approximately \$776,000.
- c. Expected to make approximately \$38,000 in distributions from the endowment fund to Woldumar in 2024.
- d. Due to health reasons, one of the Endowment Trustees had to resign from the role, leaving a vacancy. Encourage members to consider becoming involved as an Endowment Trustee (member must not have previously served or be serving as a Director of the Woldumar Board in order to qualify).

VIII. **VOLUNTEER AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Judy Gigante**

- a. In 2023, there were over 100 different volunteers and nearly 2,000 hours of volunteer time contributed to Woldumar.
- b. Exciting year to have companies (both returning and new companies) participating in volunteer events at Woldumar.
- c. A highlight of 2023 is the strength and growth of the invasive species stewardship program, with approximately 10 volunteers participating on a regular basis.
- d. Other notable events in 2023 include the establishment of the outdoor nature education center, the creation of a pollinator garden (funded through a grant), and the most successful trail run to-date.
- e. In 2024, looking for volunteers to maintain Woldumar’s gardens and trails.

IX. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

- a. *Presentation from Allie Shigley, Program Manager*
 - i. Allie moved into this position in the past fiscal year.
 - ii. Woldumar achieved over 700 hours in educational programming for the community this year.
 - iii. Highest participation in camp programming to-date with over 630 kids participating.
 - iv. For 2024, goals include additions to the science curriculum and increase in community programming.
- b. *Presentation from Victoria Churchill, Hospitality Manager*
 - i. Victoria is excited to have returned to Woldumar in June 2023 after leaving for a short period of time to learn and grow her experience in another role.
 - ii. 2023 included 27 weddings and 47 other non-wedding events. 26 weddings are already booked for 2024.
 - iii. In 2024, Victoria will be participating in a 12-week hospitality training course to increase her knowledge and bring even more value to Woldumar.
- c. *Presentation from Lauren Smith, Development Director*
 - i. Introduction as new Development Director of Woldumar.

- ii. Acknowledgement of work from Robin Carey, previous Development Director and staff in 2023. Recognition of Woldumar receiving over \$150,000 in grants at the beginning of 2023 to fund the Camp Discovery Program.
- iii. Goals for 2024 include growing the annual trail run and revamping the benefits offered to members.
- iv. Reminder regarding ongoing year-end donation campaign and ways to donate.

X. **DISCUSSION/Q&A WITH BOARD & STAFF**

- a. Question regarding how the growth of the endowment fund impacts distributions to Woldumar. J.B. McCombs explained that the endowment fund requires distribution of 5% of the fair market value of the holdings in the fund from the prior year, so as the endowment fund grows, distributions should also increase in value.
- b. Question regarding how the internship program works for students. Allie Shigley summarized the internship program, noting that many of the applications come from students that participate in the water quality testing program during the school year. Woldumar's partnership with GM for the EcoGreen program allows the internship to be paid, which is unique for a high school internship program.

XI. **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

- a. The three-year term for the following Directors is expiring at the end of 2023:
 - i. Kevin Goodwin
 - ii. Judy Gigante
 - iii. Randy Flick
 - iv. Alaina Nelson
- b. A vote by written ballot was held as to whether each of the above-listed Directors should have his or her term renewed for another three years.
- c. Written ballots were collected and results to be tabulated following the annual member meeting.

XII. **ADJOURN: 7:32 P.M.**