Announcement:
Meeting of the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center Board of Directors and Guests

January 8, 2024
4:30-6:00 pm

4:30-4:45 - Welcomes, check in's

I. **4:45 PM; Call Meeting to Order**

II. **4:45 PM; Public Comments**

III. **4:50 PM; Review and approve December minutes (Board may vote)**

Motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting.

IV. **5:00 PM; Director Report/Financials**

V. **5:10 PM; Program Report/Updates/Upcoming Board Needs**

VI. **5:25 PM; Strategic Plan Session Update and Process Ahead**

VII. **5:35; Board Member Spotlight – Karen Cordasco**

VIII. **5:45; Other items**

IX. **6:00; Vote to Adjourn**

Next meeting February 12, 2024

1/8/2024

Attendees: Staff – Moran Henn, Melissa Eckstrom, Ash Shields, Evie Osborne
Board – Eric Saunders, Neil Weintraub, Mary McKell, Jana Sterling, Jillian Worssam, Tabi Bolton, Michele James , Karen Cordasco, Ariel Leonard, Andi Rogers
Call Meeting to Order:

Public Comments: No members of the public in attendance

Review and Approve December Minutes: Neil moved to approve December minutes, Mary Seconded

Director Report and Financials: Facebook changed algorithm, no longer can see statistics, Appeal once a year to request funds/donations to members. Eric observing an increase in new names in membership. Discussion on trends in membership, are numbers increasing, staff will provide for next month's meeting. Neil to send Eric communication regarding questions on data collection.

Published Beale Road Fundraiser -
Appeal Sent
Received donation from GEO Fund
Solidified first six months of workshops (Jan – June)
Staff Year end gift - $500

Reports and Updates: No dramatic changes in financials, *See report. Paid programs schools with schools an increase, and more consistent with pre-covid. Payroll has increased, with the inclusion of new full time staff member.

EDUCATION: Melissa no slowdown in programs in the pre-winter months, Sustainable gift making was very successful,

Upcoming Board Needs: A concern to keep board involved with workshops, and request board members to attend at least one workshop/year, as well as bring ideas for new types of workshops. Ideal planning time would be to brain storm in October for 2025. Are there talking points to encourage guest speakers? Need to be developed for board dispersal

May 17th Mini Board Retreat to meet at the Spring Valley Cabin prior to Beal Presentation: 4:30, If people want to spend the night, great. Neil to contact Jake Bacon to participate in the Saturday morning meet and greet Neil will take the lead, develop poll for board and staff participation.

Board members to attend workshops.
January – Jana, Evie
February – Jillian
May - Andi

Strategic Plan Update: Board to bring inspiration quotes to blend throughout the strategic plan. Mission and Vision Jillian to take lead on rewriting, Ash to update staff roles and parts, Andi to update positive word play: ie: threats, Ariel to work on history component.

Plan for February to discuss strategic plan: everyone needs to read the strategic plan prior to the meeting, Please re-send the strategic plan to all members and staff. Jillian will send with January meeting notes.

For February stay a ½ hour longer to work on strategic plan 4:30 – 6:30

Board Member Spotlight: Karen Cordasco. Three Passions, Art, Nature and Education Karen is also an AZ Trails Steward for Bismark Lake. (Watercolor, birds, oil, pastel, etchings)

Jillian for February 12.

Other Items: Puppet update, Please add to February agenda, May 18 – 26 ArtX, The shows are published on the web site. An update on hats, Goal for February to have a price for board members to possibly purchase? $25.00. New Board Member discussion for February Moran to update web page and board members

Vote to Adjourn: Michelle motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mary