

Minutes for Regular Meeting of Beargrass Alliance held via Zoom on Monday, November 15, 2021. Attending were Linda Gugin, president, Jim St. Clair, secretary, David Spenard, Perry Thomas, Rick Harned, and Martha Carlson Mazur. Many thanks to Perry Thomas who volunteered to establish a Zoom account for the meeting.

The meeting largely focused on the document Linda created that proposes revisions in the organization and structure of BCA. The mission remains the same; that is, to protect, educate and advocate for the water quality of the Beargrass Creek Watershed in Louisville. The changes include organization, responsibilities of officers, membership and meetings, and the creation of Communities of Interest or COIs.

Organization: Under the plan, a steering committee, consisting of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are elected annually for one-year terms, and if possible, will meet monthly to plan activities such as clean-ups, recruiting members, and responding to developments that might affect the three forks of Beargrass Creek. In addition, officers will select four other individuals for the committee including a representative from the Kentucky Waterways Alliance. The committee will also attempt to include at least one person from each of the three forks. Meetings of the general membership will be held every other month, in person, virtually, or in a combination of the two.

Communities of Interest or Sub-Committees and Their Duties: These four panels, which will be formed around the four main goals of BCA, are: **Monitor for Development Projects**, which keep track of commercial and residential developments that have a potential to harm the Beargrass Creek Watershed; for example, Linda cited the need to keep current on the proposed \$250 million Park Place development at Grinstead Drive and Lexington Road, and the development of apartments at the site of the old Presbyterian Seminary. **Water Quality**, which will organize, promote, and support trash clean-ups and administer the Every Drop Program to install rains barrels, rain gardens, native trees and native plant gardens at residences in the watershed; **Education and Advocacy**, will work with educators to create interest among students and the general public about the creek and to encourage their participation in trash cleanups and other events; and **Financial Resources**, will seek to augment annual dues paid by BCA members by developing other sources of funding through fund-raising events and soliciting contributions from local sources who want to support the goals of BCA. Once formed, each COI will designate a coordinator who will convene meetings and report on plans and activities to the steering committee and seek the committee's support when needed. David recommended the possibility of allowing for an ad hoc committee to address issues that arise but are not covered by the standard COIs.

David, commenting on the document, said that it is an incredible improvement over the current bylaws and is well-tailored to meet the interests of members and potential members.

Linda said one factor she considered in developing the reorganization plan was the fact that most people don't like the frequency and size of meetings. Under this proposal, members would be spending less time in general meetings and more time in their COIs. Agendas for general meetings, held every other month, would include reports from the COIs. However, in the meeting it was suggested and agreed that general meetings would be held every three months.

Addressing the need for funds, Martha suggested a tiered system for annual dues for members, students and partners. These levels of membership were discussed: regular membership, \$30; sustaining or sponsor level, \$40; student \$5 or \$10. Linda noted that Susan Ward with KWA could also be helpful in

this effort. It was agreed that paying dues should occur in January. Supporting the idea of dues, Martha said if you have money things happen. She also said that KWA should have an online way to pay dues. Salt River Watershed Watch, which is also under the auspices of KWA, provides for members to pay dues directly online. Linda suggested one event that could be a fundraiser is a showing of Morgan Atkinson's film, "Beargrass: The Creek In Your Backyard," at a public event. The owner of the Logan Street Market, Medora Safai, has shown an interest in supporting Beargrass Creek and that locale might work for a fundraiser.

Linda asked if people would be interested in having a holiday social event and suggested we could book a room at a restaurant. She will pose the question to the larger group to determine if there is interest. If there is a social event, it will replace the monthly meeting in December.

If we want to continue our hybrid meetings, Linda will check with Ward Wilson to determine if we can continue to have the in-person portion at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. If not, we may be able to meet in person at the St. Matthews Library.