

**Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)**

**April 21, 2022**

**5:30 pm Conservation Committee Meeting (optional) & 6 pm Board Meeting on Zoom**

Call to Order and Attendance at 6:14 pm

Attendance (those attending in bold)

**Gerri Reaves (P)**            **Brad Cornell**            Lina Ramirez-Granada

**Dan VanNorman (VP)**   **Vivian Cardoso**            Wayne Daltry

**Jim Rodenfels (T)**        Sean McCabe            Pete Quasius

Michele Bellinger        **Carol Newcomb (S)**

Guests: **Robin Serne**

**Approval of Minutes** of March 17, 2022 meeting **Approved Carol –1<sup>st</sup>, Jim-2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Treasurer's Report:** Approval of Jim's emailed reports & the following expenditures:

- Approx. \$10--Crown Trophy for Robin's name tag
- Approx. \$210--USPS for renewal of PO Box rent

**Expenditures approved Vivian – 1<sup>st</sup>, Dan - 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Committee Reports**

**Membership/Jim:** see emailed report – memberships are going well

**Conservation (5:30):**

- Brad/ RCC meeting on March 20; update on letters re: Gopher Tortoises to FWC & Troyer Bros.
- Dan/EvCo update: Annual Quarterly Meeting held on April 7
  - three new board members are Elise Bennett, Kelly Cox, and Emma Haydocy. Kelly Cox of Audubon Florida joins Mark Perry as new co-chair for the coalition; sign-ons
- Lina/Estero Bay ABM update: March 28 meeting
- Brad & Jim/Shorebird Stewardship update
- Gerri/bird-glass collision update: Occasional surveys continue; new volunteers; bird fatalities recorded at downtown library, county notified; communications w/Babcock builders
- Carol/CHNEP climate summit
- April 6 Spring Climate Lead Network Call
- City of Fort Myers will discuss Green Space & solicit public input

During regular meeting:

- Approval of Expenditures:
  - \$200--Audubon Florida for SWF's Board Rep, Stephen Buczynski
  - \$103--Calusa Waterkeeper membership
  - Loan spotting scope to summer steward, Stephanie Wagley

**Expenditures approved Carol – 1<sup>st</sup>, Vivian- 2nd**

**Field Trips/Jim:** see emailed report

18 people attended Shorebird training. Stephanie will start at the beginning of May at Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area

**Programs/Jim & Gerri:** Hold Environmental Breakfast or not? Resume in-person programs in the fall? A suggestion was made: do a scaled-down version with coffee and pastries., using the outside porch...no full breakfast. Decision on hold for another month.

**Publicity, Website, G-mail Newsletter, & Social Media/Jim:** Review DRAFT April Gmail blast; send additions to Jim by April 26

**National & State Audubon Updates:**

- Brad
- National exploring John James Audubon's racist past and what it means for the organization's future; for context, see J. Drew Lanham's recent article in Audubon Magazine. Local chapters will ultimately be asked to share their views.
- Gerri/Next AF's Presidents Call is April 26, theme is "planning". Suggestion: For June meeting we should discuss what our "strategic plan" is.

**Education/Jim:** no report

**Old Business:**

- Jim/Photo Contest: entries to be taken through April 15 (extended);
  - # of entrants: 20 (16 new members + 4 renewals),
  - 87 total entries
  - Judges confirmed, judging on May 8
  - \$515 received. The entry fee was structured as a \$25 one-year membership which included five entries.
  - An idea discussed is to feature the entries on the web site as a revolving montage.
  - Process well within budget
  - Jim welcomes someone to take over as Photo Contest Coordinator

- Babcock Earth Day on April 23: Gerri, Carol, and Dan attending
- Annual Meeting/Election: notice to be given between Apr 12 & May 11, postcard submitted to printer April 12 w/1,432 addresses, postage & printing = \$569.73 (\$600 budgeted), gmail notice scheduled for May 5.
- Ballot Drop-by/drive-through event in downtown Fort Myers by Bennett-Hart Palm Park (next to Collaboratory) on Saturday, 10 am to noon, May 28; volunteers welcome, refreshments served

**New/Updated Business:**

- Carol & Gerri & Carol briefly explained Pete's plan for a new Babcock Ranch Audubon chapter
- Dan gave an update on the wrap-up details for January's Water Resources conference

**Meeting Adjourned: 6:52 pm Brad – 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim - 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, May 19 on Zoom

Annotated and submitted by Carol Newcomb

On April -22, 2022 Earth Day!