

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)  
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting  
November 14, 2019  
The Collaboratory, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Michele Bellinger, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels.

Minutes of September 19 meeting approved (JR/GR). (No board meeting was held in October.)

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Reports for September and October 2019, previously distributed by email, were approved (GR/JR). The check for \$1,650 (11 paying participants x 150) from Holbrook Travel to ASWF Chapter for the Colombia trip organized and led by Jayne Johnston will be deposited into the Charles Foster Conservation Fund (GR/JR)

### **Committee Reports**

Membership: National membership was 1136, down by 23 since September; October numbers are not yet available. Chapter membership is 149, up 4 since August, with 2 renewals, 3 new memberships, and one loss.

Conservation: Brad and Dan will submit a letter to the Town of Fort Myers Beach Town Council on the chapter's behalf urging them to deny Texas Holdem and Squeeze Me Inn's "special exception" application to build a boardwalk/dune walk to the detriment of Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area and Shorebird Nesting Habitat at Castle Beach. Dan represented the chapter at the Lee County Legislative Delegation on October 30. Gerri outlined a long-term project to get the County and the City of Fort Myers to adopt bird-friendly building ordinances or even optional recommendations for structures that are rehabbed, remodeled, or newly constructed. The goal is to prevent window-bird collisions and deaths such as she has documented at a county-owned building. Jim suggested that up to \$200 be approved for possible expenses (JR/MB).

Field Trips: The next field trip is "Exploring the Prairie Tract of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve" on Saturday, December 7.

Programs/Gerri: In December, Gene Gibson of Calusa Waterkeeper will speak about Billy's Creek and the chapter will have the annual Holiday Party.

Publicity: The Environmental Breakfast press release was announced in *The River Weekly News*. Dan and Michele will represent the chapter at the CHNEP Nature Festival at Punta Gorda on Saturday, November 16 with an exhibitor table.

Flyways/Jim R.: A digital newsletter was distributed in October. The content deadline for the next issue (hardcopy and end-of-year appeal) is by December 19. Send content to Courtney.

National & State Audubon Updates: None.

### **Old Business:**

Environmental Breakfast Follow-up/Jim: Total proceeds were \$2,182; expenses \$551.74; and net profit \$1,630.26. Attendance was 80. The idea of a pancake breakfast for next year was briefly discussed. The

menu would include toppings (fruit, organic jams, sour cream, maple syrup, etc.), plus the usual sausage, orange juice, and other things.

Colombia Birding Trip Follow-up/Dan: Jayne & 11 others made the trip.

**New Business:**

Dan will once again represent the chapter at the Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference. The 29<sup>th</sup> conference will be on Friday, January 24, 2020. The letter authorizing the chapter's status as co-host and exhibitor/sponsor was approved (GR/JR).

Both Brad and Dan have been contacted by someone about how to protect chimney swifts in the proposed remodeling of the Gasparilla Inn at Boca Grande. It is proposed that a chimney where they are roosting and nesting be destroyed. He wanted assistance or advice on persuading the owners of Gasparilla Inn to replace the chimney with new towers for the swifts. Dan will advise those concerned that they contact Peace River Audubon and possibly FWC. He will also research chimney alternatives which he's seen marketed.

Other issues briefly discussed: selling the movie screen and starting the board meetings earlier.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, December 19, 2019, with program and Holiday Party.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:54p.m., followed by a program by Jason Boeckman, Coordinator, Conservation 20/20 Program, Lee County Parks & Recreation: "Hiking at Lee County's Conservation 20/20 Preserves."

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.