

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
February 20, 2020
The Collaboratory, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Courtney Kern, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Chapter hospitality volunteer Carol Mariany was also in attendance.

Minutes of January 16 meeting approved (BC/JR).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Report for January, previously distributed by email, and storage rent increase from \$85 to \$95/month approved (GR/SM).

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: For January, national membership increased by 93 to 1284 since December; chapter membership was 140, down 19 since December, with 26 renewals and 20 new memberships.

Conservation/Brad: There is a candidate for shorebird stewardship, but only one day/week. Brad is considering offering her \$500 through early April. Fort Myers Beach City Council for the second time denied Texas Holdem and Squeeze Me Inn's application to build a boardwalk/dune walk to the detriment of Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area.

Gerri: Jacki Lopez, Florida director for the Center for Biological Diversity, requests that anyone interested in the Pine Island rice rat (*Oryzomys palustris planirostris*) or its conservation to contact her, for the Center is considering taking legal action to protect the species. Five old live oaks are being saved on the site for the new Hampton Inn in downtown Fort Myers. Clearing the site has begun recently.

The chapter will revive the previously approved procedure for sign-on letters that require quick attention. Conservation co-chairs and the president will give approval.

Field Trip/Jim: Five successful field trips were held since the last meeting.

Programs/Gerri: Suggestions for next year's programs are welcome. She will give one about preventing bird-window collisions.

Publicity/Carol N.: A couple of announcements for programs and field trips appeared in local outlets.

National & State Audubon Updates/Brad: The RCC meeting was held February 2; Zoom software problems hampered progress.

Old Business:

Dan: The 29th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Council on Friday, January 24 and Wings Over Water Festival in Lehigh Acres on Saturday, January 25 both went very well.

Gerri will contact Calusa Waterkeeper regarding their "Palooza" on March 22 and the chapter having a table. Dan, Gerri, Carol, and possibly others will volunteer.

New Business: Dan and Jim will attend the exhibit table at Burrowing Owl Festival on Saturday, February 29. At tonight's membership meeting, donations to Australia through the U.S's World Wildlife Fund will be collected and matched to aid in the crises from the recent wildfires.

Gerri and Jim recently took part in National Audubon's webinar about bird-window collisions in low-rise and residential buildings. It will serve as a basis for Gerri giving a program on the topic, augmented by photos she has taken locally. She has copied an American Bird Conservancy flyer on the topic to distribute at meetings and festivals after obtaining ABC's permission to add the chapter logo on the flyer.

E-Breakfast/Jim: The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 at Riverside Community Center. For future consideration, Jim suggests we purchase 120 durable plates, 79 cents each from Target. He's also like to buy gifts for 20/20 staff to give at E-Breakfast, since this year is the 20/20 Celebration. Dan noted that it's time to think of nominees for the 2020-2021 board slate.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 with a program, "Prescription for a Healthy Liquid Heart, Okeechobee" by Doug Gaston, Northern Everglades Policy Analyst of Audubon Florida.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at about 6:50 p.m., followed by a program, "Florida, Our Eden, Is Under Threat From the Effects of Climate Change," by Ariel Hoover, Chair, Climate Reality Leadership Corps, Lee County Chapter, Climate Reality.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.