

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors' Meeting

September 17, 2020

Fort Myers Regional Library-Outdoors with physical distancing guidelines adhered to

Call to Order and Attendance

Time: 5:57 By: President Gerri Reaves

Members present:

Gerri Reaves, Dan VanNorman, Brad Cornell, Michele Bellinger

Minutes of August 20 Meeting approved

With edit concerning correction of the next meeting date

Treasurer's report/Jim

- Approvals: \$360 for WIX (website) renewal (3 yr.) & \$47.70 for WIX domain name renewal (2 yr.)
Total amount -\$407.70 was Approved unanimously
- Sign off completed audit for previous 2 yrs.
Dan and Gerri completed the document. It needs to get signed next month verifying its completion.

Committee Reports

Membership: stagnant only one local renewal

Conservation

- Regional Conservation Committee (RCC) Update/Brad
Signed on by Cape Coral and Charlotte County, other towns are considering it and expected to sign on
- EvCo update: No vote on MCORES resolution & other news
Dan (serves as alternate) submitted no vote with study okayed. Opposition to new roads expressed but open to possible improvements to existing roads

- Estero Bay Aquatic Bay Management (ABM) update
Brad attended meeting on Monday for Bay Management-looking at watershed letter on how flood mitigation plan is being done. He mentioned that the Corkscrew Preserve water level is very low and mentioned a few possible reasons for this

Education/Jim

Field trips/Jim w/10 to a group

- Sept.26-Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek led by Vince McGrath-RSVPs good
- Oct. 13-Hickey Creek Mitigation Park
- Oct.18-Hawk Watch at Sanibel Lighthouse led by Vince McGrath
- March-Field trip to Cayo Costa
By boat, into the afternoon and involving lunch. The entire field trip will be tailored to Covid restrictions

Programs/Gerri

- City's cancellation of E-breakfast reservation
Riverside Center (breakfast site) will remain closed
- Doug Tallamy's program thru Venice area Audubon & Audubon Florida on Sept. 22
This is being promoted by many groups
- Mangroves & Mullets: Zoom presentation in cooperation with The Friends of Cayo Costa on Nov. 19-advertise?
Advertising options discussed: Possibly News-Press or Florida Weekly was suggested with possibly coverage in the Sunday insert (Tropicalia) and promote field trip to Cayo Costa in March

Publicity/Carol & Newsletter/Jim: Ideas for Oct. Gmail blasts-send to Jim R.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of updating the email system to become more effective in addition to Jim's email blast

It was suggested that perhaps FGCU students could assist with this project

Audubon National and State Updates

- Audubon assembly in Oct. is virtual this year: \$25 to register
Let's all attend!

- President's meeting with Jacqui Sulek of AF:
Gerri and Jacqui suggested sharing field trip pointers and Gerri shared Jim's successful field trip format used during the pandemic. It was decided to meet once rather than twice/month

- AF's SW Florida Regional Resiliency Compact
Halle Goldstein is the leader of this project

Old Business

- Dan's presentation: prototypes of shorebird shading shelters
Dan set up several of the shorebird nesting shade shelters that he constructed, explained their construction and how they work. Brad suggested that Dan share the design and get feed-back from the folks that are involved with the plight of shorebird beach nesting chick survival.
Dan also constructed and placed bluebird nesting boxes at Babcock Ranch preserve
- New large Lee County facility to serve as back up for E-breakfast location
This is the William Op Training Center to serve as possible breakfast site. It has a kitchen, seats several hundred and has set up for presentations. It is situated near Lehigh Acres.
**It should be noted that: This facility is not currently open yet

New Business

- Update on FGCU Service-Learning opportunities & volunteers

Four opportunities were posted by Gerri who got much response. Jim has two students to help with field trips and two students are working with Gerri on bird collision curriculum. Pete wants Facebook help and students may be able to assist carol updating email (if this is desired)

- Sign-on: ABC's Protect Americas Children from Toxic Pesticides Act of 2020
- Calusa waterkeepers water-quality monitoring of Billy's Creek: plan for creek/testing; grant from SW Florida Community Foundation; Nonnel's role: contact if interested, will do a presentation

Next Meeting Date: Thursday Oct. 20, 2020 Location TBD

Meeting Adjoined: 8:15