

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting & Potluck Dinner
May 16, 2019
Carol Newcomb's Home, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, and Gerri Reaves.

Past Presidents still active in chapter: John Cassani, Don Doggett, Bill Hammond, Connie Jarvis, Mary Lee Mann, Vince McGrath, Maria Quasius, and Jim Reynolds.

Minutes of April 18 meeting approved with one amendment (BC/CN).

Treasurer's Report/Jim R. via email: Report for April 2019, previously distributed by email, was approved (GR/SM).

Committee Reports

Membership: April National membership was 1343 (up 3). Chapter membership was 135 (down 7), with 4 renewals, and 2 new memberships.

Conservation/Brad: The replacement for Lee Commissioner Kiker will have a huge effect on issues chapter cares about. Brad will testify against the Impacted Wetland Amendment. All five chapters participated in last the RCC meeting; Sanibel had not recently been participating. The meeting resulted in some good points about how to proceed with the committee. However, an action plan is needed, as well as unity and coordination among groups on issues such as climate change to avoid each group working in isolation or duplicating work.

Education: A chair is needed; Dan suggested having a temporary committee active only during scholarship-selection times.

Publicity/Carol: Meetings and programs are announced in the *News-Press* calendar, via the chapter Gmail account, in addition to other outlets.

National & State Audubon Updates/Brad: Corkscrew hired new climate-change communications person.

Programs/Gerri: There is no program tonight. The final program of the year will be Phil Flood at the annual meeting. Dan outlined a plan for next season to design program-field trip pairings, which was well received (e.g., a program on Six Cypress Slough followed up with a field trip there).

Old Business: Plans continue for the Annual Meeting on June 1. Jim R. has already distributed assignments for volunteers. Jim R. and Gerri created the program and it is being printed. Teddy R. created the postcard announcement that was recently mailed to the membership. Board nominations are needed, and possibilities were discussed. Jayne will continue as coordinator for the Columbia trip.

New Business: Dan shared details and prices for storage-units. He will wait on the decision until Carol finds out if the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium might have a suitable separate space we can rent.

The chapter's direction, goals, scope, and labor pool were discussed. The board voted to approve funding a program/subscription for sending mass emails; Gmail's restrictions make sending them rather onerous and limits communication with the membership (SM/GR). Gerri will research the options.

Gerri will send Jim B. info on glue traps and rodenticide to add to the website's "bird threats," which include window and building collisions.

Jim B.'s Google Analytics report on the website (emailed) was appreciated.

Next Meeting Date: Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 1, at the Collaboratory in downtown Fort Myers.

Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019, at Masonic Lodge (final event at that location). No program.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.