

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)  
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting  
December 19, 2019  
The Collaboratory, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Michele Bellinger, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels.

Minutes of November 14 meeting approved (JR/MB).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Report for November 2019, previously distributed by email, and the following expenditures were approved (DV/GR).

Two regular automatic debits: EFT PayPal minimal credit card processing fee and \$85 for DR card Cube Smart storage locker rental

Items for discussion and approval:

- Panther Printing for Flyways: \$2,260 printing & postage
- Renewal of USPS non-profit permit: \$225
- Donation to Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife: \$50.00
- Everglades Coalition: \$250
- Harns Marsh Winds Over Water: \$25
- Window-Bird Collision project: \$100 pre-paid VISA card for expenses Gerri might incur

Contingency funds of \$250 for EVCO conference on Captiva in January, should Carol or Michele decide to attend and set up a table, approved (JR/GR).

Note: The security fee for the Collaboratory has increased from \$74 to \$100 per after-hours meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Membership: For October, national membership was 1165, up by 29 since September; chapter membership was 140, up 2, with 2 renewals, 1 new membership, and 1 drop.

For November, national membership was 1175, up by 10 since October; chapter membership is 152, up 3 since October, with 1 renewal, 3 new memberships, and 1 drop.

All board members are reminded to pay their dues.

Conservation: Conservation committee needs to monitor deadline for events such as EvCo.

Education/JR: Funds will go to FGCU soon for scholarship.

Field Trips: Two "Exploring the Prairie Tract of the Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve" trips were well-attended. Two manatee kayaking trips are planned for January and the Ding Darling Bicycle Tour in February.

Programs/Gerri: Programs are set through May.

Publicity/Carol N.: Announcements for programs and field trips appeared in *Tropicalia* and *Gulf Coasting*.

Flyways/Jim R.: The newsletter will be mailed in early January, along with the chapter's annual solicitation envelope.

National & State Audubon Updates: None.

**Old Business:**

Christmas Bird Count/Dan: Anyone interested in joining the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 21, should contact Jayne for the Orange River Circle; however, for the Caloosahatchee River pontoon boat trips, contact Pete directly.

**New Business:** After discussion, it was decided to change the board meeting time to 5:30. A formal/informal conservation committee meeting can start at 5:00. A thank you note from Kathy Olson, recipient of the Environmentalist of the Year Award, was shared. There is a new scheduling coordinator for the Collaboratory. Gerri will schedule people for surveys of downtown buildings for the window-bird collision project. Carol revisited the idea of making the 2020 Environmental Breakfast a pancake one. Jim noted that to do so, committed volunteers are needed. Volunteer numbers were down for the last event.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 with a program by Jennifer Hecker of Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at about 6:15 p.m., followed by a program, "Billy's Creek: the Canary in the Coal Mine for Lee County Tributaries," by Gene Gibson of Calusa Waterkeeper.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.