

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
February 21, 2019
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Also in attendance were Carol Mariany, Jim Covery, and Amy Towne.

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

Minutes of January 17 meeting approved. (JR/SM)

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Report for January 2019, previously distributed by email, was approved (?/?). Also approved (GR/JJ) was an expenditure of \$61.25 for the corporate tax/Florida Dept. of State Annual Report.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne: January National membership was 1364 (up 6). Chapter membership was 136 (up 7), with 24 renewals, and 17 new memberships, including one lifetime.

Conservation/Brad:

Concerns to monitor are definition change for wetland; deletion of rock-mining map 14; and Estero's challenge to the State-issued Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) to Argo Corkscrew Crossing. The recent RCC meeting was a good one.

- Payment of \$900 to Courtney Kern for work as the Winter Shorebird Steward, January through April, was approved (GR/JR).

Dan:

- Payment of \$157.50 to the City of Fort Myers for rental of Riverside Community Center in October was approved (JJ/BC).
- Bluebird box projects: Chapter donated 3 bluebird boxes to the Calusa Land Trust on Pine Island and FGCU student Tony Encalada built 10 bluebird boxes for the Chapter as part of his Service Learning project. Instructions were provided to recipients who install the boxes. Dan will continue the project with volunteers and scrap/donated lumber.

Education/Jayne:

- Additional funds (a. \$150) for the Lehigh Veteran Middle School Marine Biology and Ecology Club were approved (JR/BC). The sponsoring teacher will give a presentation at the annual meeting. Also approved (BC/JR) was allowing the students to keep the binoculars.
- Funds for FGCU Foundation for \$1,000 scholarship were approved (JR/GR).

Field Trips/Jim:

Manatee Kayaking trips on January 26 and 28 went well, with attendance of 7 and 11, respectively. The Ding Darling bicycle tour is on February 24.

Field-trip info should be sent to Jim B. for posting on the website.

Programs/Gerri: Next month, Beverly Saltonstall and Pascha Donaldson of Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife will speak about Burrowing Owls.

Publicity/Carol: Not all media outlets (e.g., *News-Press*) published the announcement of tonight's meeting, even though Carol submitted it on time. It did appear in *The River Weekly News* and in *Florida Weekly's* calendar.

National & State Audubon Updates: Brad said the National board recently met in Naples and visited Corkscrew Swamp. Jayne explained the FWC draft rule proposal that would allow law enforcement officers to collect illegal bird traps they discover.

Old Business/Dan:

- Report on 28th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on January 25: Carol M. and Dan attended; it was well-attended and had good presentations.
- Report on FGCU Service Learning Fair February 28: There was some interest and a few people signed up to volunteer.
- The chapter will have exhibit tables at the Burrowing Owl Festival, February 23; Bicycle Theater Tour at Fort Myers Regional Library on March 13; and Wings Over Water Festival on March 16.
- Jayne gave an update on the Colombia trip planned for fall 2019. She will send info to Jim B. to post on the website. Additional publicity is needed and she urged board members to help spread the word.

New Business:

- Proposal to change the location of the board meetings and programs to the Collaboratory approved (BC/GR). (For months when no program is scheduled after the meeting, the board will meet elsewhere.) We will also explore the possibility of holding the June 1 annual meeting there.
- Gerri noted that the Fort Myers City Council had approved the proposed site for the new fire station on Six Mile Cypress (upcoming vote was mentioned at last board meeting) and that Kevin Anderson was the only "no" vote.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. Church Roberts's program on Caloosahatchee Rookeries/Drones, CHNEP grant project, followed.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.