

**Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

**August 20, 2009 - 6:00 PM**

**Eco Living Center, Ft. Myers**

**Chair:** Carol

**Members present:** Gerri, Tina, Gene, Kelly, Carl, Toby, Conny, Mari (recorded minutes)

**Call to Order:** 6:05 PM

**Approval of minutes:** 1\* Mari: 2\* Carl- approved

**Approval of new President:** 1\* Gerri: 2\* Toby- approved. Retired Pres. Gerri was thanked by all.

**Education Committee:** Gene introduced Jason Almcrantz, a new Audubon member and applicant for the Audubon scholarship program. He was encouraged to attend the Environmental Breakfast, Oct.22,'09. The board assured him of a response by August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Treasury:** Rebecca absent. Carol gave report: \$180. – new membership dues.

\$200. –donation in memory of Shirley Phillips

Toby made a motion to form a Finance Committee: 2\* Carl,-approved: goal is to clarify and organize how funds are to be used & invested. Carol, Gerri, Toby, Rebecca volunteered to serve on the committee, with the assistance of Neil Wilkinson, and an LPL representative.

Pete has birding guides: \$11 due.

Purple Martin Bird Walk raised \$135.

Flyways: # 2000 newsletters cost total: \$1070.

**Membership:** Maria will return in September, when the revised membership forms will be finalized. New members: 52 ( 17 this past month).

**Conservation:** Carol reported in ref. to sign- on letters, which will be sent to BOD via e-mail as well as in the proposed agenda for upcoming meetings.

**Fairs, Festivals, & Events:**

Purple Martin Fest: great success, well attended: downtown business Bar Association Bistro and SW FL Audubon plan to repeat next year, although no 2010 date has been set yet. Gerri will send a thank you letter to Purple Martin Conservation Association for providing pamphlets.

Gerri suggested that we lead more downtown birding tours.

Carol will contact Choctawatchee Audubon regarding Purple Martin migration arrival date contest.

Conny made a motion to purchase # 30 bird guides: Gerri 2\* - approved \$120 + shipping/tax.

Conny will send BOD the link for Audubon brochures and needs our input re: which selections to order. Gerri made motion to dedicate future Audubon fair displays to only Audubon material: Gene 2\* - approved. Connie suggested that the T-shirts be put on hold.

Environmental Breakfast, Oct. 22, 2009, sponsors are SWFL Audubon & SCCF. It will be held from 7:00 am -9:00am @ the Riverside Community Center w/ approx. 200 expected participants. The estimated budget is \$1500. A suggestion was made for native floral centerpieces to be provided by the Butterfly Estates &/or John Sibley. Carol presented the Butterfly Estates' willingness to be the preferred caterer. Carol will e-mail to BOD official sponsorship request forms so we can all find sponsors for this event.

Nominees for Environmentalist of the Year Award were discussed At the September meeting, the vote will be taken to decide the winner.

Bonita Springs Riverfest is Oct.24<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Conny expressed the need for assistance at future fairs, etc. She offered to look into participating in the Blueways Festival, Ding Days, & Bonita Springs fairs, as reported in the agenda.

**Field Trips:** October 18<sup>th</sup>,2009 Vince McGrath will lead a hawk watch @ the Sanibel Lighthouse. **Check the Audubon calendar online for all future events !!**

### **Upcoming Programs:**

**1.** Audubon Assembly- October 23-24,2009 in St. Petersburg, FL. Cost: \$120.00 . Any board members interested in attending will need to pay the full cost, and any reimbursement will be determined by the full board when the finance committee presents a report on the state of this chapter's financial health.

**2.** Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival: Connie and helpers will set up the tent/display @ the Mound House on Saturday, Oct.24<sup>th</sup>,2009 for the 9:30-4:00 duration; and @ the Randell Research Center on Saturday, Oct.31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 for the 9:30-4:00 duration.

**3.** Green Market Fair @ the Alliance for the Arts: Audubon participation will be suspended until mid-Sept. or early Oct.2009.

**4:** Ding Days: Connie will contact Ding Darling NWR on Sanibel to find out how to participate.

**Flyways:** Discussion concerning hardcopy mailed vs. e-mailed was brief pending finance committee's report.

**Web Report:** Additional support of \$250.00 to Eco-Voice.org was tabled.

**Bird-a-thon:** Toby reported that this fundraiser, where volunteer birders would raise money/ pledges to identify bird species within a specific period of time, would be followed by a dinner social. Toby will check with John Kiseda to arrange a date to use the Eco Living Center for the dinner location. He will also contact Vince McGrath, Dan Van Norman, & Roger Clark to solicit their expertise in leading the birding identification.

**Unfinished Business:** Gerri has officially thanked the Purple Martin conservation Association.

**New Business:** Peter Quasius has offered to represent SWFL Audubon on Eco-Voice. Discussion followed as to why this was even necessary to have an appointed representative on Eco-voice since we already are a sponsor.

**Inventory:** Discussion concerning the need to compile an inventory of this chapter's supplies and equipment, and where these are located was initiated.

Carl raised Babcock Ranch road widening issues that are pending in both Lee & Charlotte counties. It was decided that the BOD will not get involved at this time in taking a stand on this issue. Carl also announced the DRGR meeting re: mining

**Adjournment**