

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
October 19, 2017
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels.

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

Minutes of September meeting approved (JR/BC)

Treasurer's Report/Jim:

Authorization for necessary Environmental Breakfast funds (a. \$500) approved (GR/CN)

September report approved (BC/CN)

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne:

September 2017: 116 chapter; 1104 national; 2 renewals; no new chapter members

Conservation/Brad: (Conservation Committee met prior to board meeting.)

Main projects: Requesting Florida Forever projects from the legislator, which includes a report on Dan's meeting with Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen this week; checking on 20/20 status (stalled); and securing leadership for the Shorebird Stewardship Program.

Carl will submit two amendments to the Florida Conservation Review Commission, 2017-18: Wildlife Corridor Amendment and Land Acquisition Trust Fund (copies were distributed).

Due to Carl's efforts, Eric Draper has promised a \$1000 grant to the chapter so it can support the Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife's purchase of a lot that is gopher tortoise habitat. Approved.

Gerri and Carol will develop the project aimed at reducing bird-window collisions and other risks that structures pose, focusing on the in-progress communications with the county.

Education/Jayne: Courtney submitted a thank you letter for the scholarship award.

The bird club for 5th graders at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts in Lehigh Acres will begin meeting on Oct. 30. There were 20 applicants and the teachers chose 10 for acceptance. The curriculum draws on Cornell Lab of Ornithology's and Jayne and Melinda's. The students will choose a club name and write letters to request binoculars and field guide. The club will be featured in yearbook at year's end. It is hoped that this is the prototype for more such clubs.

Field Trips/Jim: The Hawk Watch led by Vince McGrath was attended by 21 people. Jayne will lead the next trip, "Corkscrew After Hours...Panthers!" at Corkscrew on Nov. 3.

Programs/Gerri: On Nov. 16, Kelsey Lang of DEP and the Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve will present a program on “Historical Wading Bird Trends in Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve.” For the Dec. 21 Holiday Party, people will bring binoculars, scopes, and other equipment for a primer on how use them.

Publicity/Carol: Carol summarized the PR for the Environmental Breakfast and asked for help in filling in a few years of “missing history” (speaker, caterer). Jim said the RSVPs are comparable to usual.

Website/Gerri: Jim B. has purchased three years of the Wix site for \$360 in order to be able to set up a PayPal account, which he and Jim R. will meet about after the Environmental Breakfast. The new site will debut after the breakfast.

Newsletter/Jim: As usual, December’s *Flyways* will be short, hardcopy/mailed, and include an appeal.

National and State Audubon Updates/Brad: Brad and Dan will attend the Audubon Assembly in St. Augustine on Oct. 20-21. Business will include approving priorities of RCCs and five state-wide proposals.

New Business:

Dan: Funds for the chapter’s usual levels of sponsorship (\$200/liability \$300) of the 27th Annual Southwest Florida Resources Conference next February were approved (GR/CN). That level includes one conference registration and exhibit space. The chapter has been a co-host for years, with Dan as representative, and sometimes another chapter member. This year’s focuses are water resources, flood insurance impact, sea-level rise, regulation and funding—all in light of Hurricane Irma. Courtney will be asked if she’d like to attend with Dan.

Jayne: Don Dogett contacted Jayne about running the Christmas Bird Count, which she agreed to do.

Environmental Breakfast/Jim:

Jim distributed information packets and reviewed assignments, work schedule, program, menu, set-up, and clean-up. Carol will bring biodegradable utensils donated by Neil. Donations: \$1500 collected and \$500 pledged.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. (JJ/BC) There was no program.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.