

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 2020

Fort Myers Regional Library--Outdoors & Observing Physical Distancing Guidelines

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

Minutes of February 20 meeting approved (GR/JR).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Reports for March and April, previously distributed by email, approved (GR/BC). The following items were approved (BC/GR).

- \$200/\$250 for Audubon Florida (AF) board representative, Steve Buczynski
- Approx. \$154 for annual PO Box renewal
- \$25 for Everglades Coalition annual dues

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: For February, 5 renewals, 12 new memberships. Chapter membership increased to 162 from 140 in January.

For March, national membership was 1197, *down 65* from February. April's national membership was 1169, down 28 from March.

April's chapter membership is 126, *down 36* since February, with 9 renewals and 1 new membership.

Note: Local members are dropped 1¼ years after most recent payment

Conservation/Brad: An RCC meeting will be held via Zoom on May 27 at 7 pm. Chad Gillis of the *News-Press* will interview AF's Adam Dinuovo on shorebirds at Fort Myers Beach. Currently, however, AF policy allows no one on beaches. In FMB's March election, three new councilors were elected, and there is a push for mediation regarding Texas Holdem and Squeeze Me Inn's application to build a boardwalk/dune walk that would detrimentally affect Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area. Lee County has approved Camaratta's Verdana project. Halle Goldstein has recently joined AF as the new Southwest Florida Climate Change and Everglades Restoration Organizer, based in Fort Myers. She previously worked on permitting at FDEP in Fort Myers and prior to that the Florida Trail Association. Dan discussed Carl's letter opposing the Southwest portion of the M-CORES project.

Education/Jim: Candidate for FGCU scholarship approved (JR/GR) for full amount.

Field Trips/Jim: Field trips are resuming with social-distancing guidelines, hopefully, after June 30. Powell Creek Preserve will be the first on July 12.

Programs/Gerri: A sufficient number of presenters are available for next season, provided we have in-person programs. Brad suggests informing membership of programs accessible online, e.g., from AF, and that we consider Zoom for programs next season.

Publicity/Dan: In lieu of donating for a chapter ad in Calusa Waterkeeper's digital 25th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine to be released in June, a \$100 Guardian membership was approved (GR/BC).

Newsletter/Jim R.: Send *Flyways* content to Courtney by the end of June.

National & State Audubon Updates/Dan: Florida Scrub Jay Watch has announced three online training webinars in June.

Old Business:

Jim R: The Environmental Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, at Riverside Community Center, but given the pandemic, it's 50-50 whether we'll have it as usual. He will be mailing a solicitation letter, nevertheless, and will continue planning. There was discussion and agreement on an award recipient, but the entire board will be consulted via an email from Brad before a final decision is made. Gerri and Brad will follow-up on a possible speaker for the event. The possibility of an online event was briefly discussed.

New Business: In June, Jim R. will do what's necessary for voting for the 2020-2021 slate of board members via gmail, since the Annual Meeting was canceled. Dan, Jim, Brad, and Sean will stand for reelection. Officers and committee assignments will be determined probably in June at the usual "organizational" meeting.

Next Meeting Date: The board meeting will be held Thursday, June 18, 2020. Location TBD.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.