

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)  
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting  
March 15, 2018  
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other currently serving board members present were Jayne Johnston, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, & Jim Rodenfels.

Note: Past Presidents still active/interested in chapter though not serving on the current board are John Cassani, Don Doggett, Bill Hammond, Connie Jarvis, Mary Lee Mann, Vince McGrath, & Maria Quasius.

Minutes of February 15 meeting approved (JR/DV).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: All is well with the treasury. Detailed report will be presented next month due to his heavy workload.

### **Committee Reports**

Membership/Jayne: February 2018: 64 chapter; 1150 national; 0 renewals; 1 new chapter members. There are still unopened envelopes received in mail, so numbers are actually higher. The supply of membership envelopes is low, so they will be printed again before year's end.

Conservation: No report.

Education/Jayne: The bird club is going well, but she missed last meeting. The next meeting will probably be in April due to March spring break. Melinda Lynch is leaving teaching, so her sponsorship is lost. The replacement teacher is no longer participating, so the club's continuance is in question.

A Tarpon Bay kayak trip is planned for the club, hopefully on May 25. Source for funds are to be determined—school principal or ASWF? A clean-up outing in Veteran's Park is also planned.

There's been no word yet from the 11 of 12 teachers/Lee County Environmental representatives Jayne emailed.

Canterbury High School has cancelled twice (once at the last moment) on Jayne and Dan's visit, so that is uncertain at present.

Jayne was contacted by the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium re: partnering on education grants.

Field Trips/Jim: Jayne will lead the trip to Matanzas on Saturday. Trips to Caloosahatchee Regional Park and Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve are planned on April 28 and May 12, respectively.

Programs/Dan: Audrey Albrecht from SCCF will give a program on piping plovers in April.

Publicity/Carol: The programs, including tonight's, have been generally well-publicized.

Dan and Jayne attended, with Audrey Albrecht, the Burrowing Owl Festival (Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife) on February 24.

Negative or offensive comments on the Facebook page will be hidden at Jayne's discretion. All comments should be readable within 30 seconds.

Carol continues to contact the appropriate people at FGCU re: the study and prevention of bird-window collisions and deaths.

Newsletter/Jim: Board members should send content to Courtney for the next *Flyways*. It will publicize the annual meeting and needs to go out the beginning of May.

**Old Business:**

A \$500 donation to Cape Coral Wildlife Trust, Inc. to help purchase gopher tortoise property was approved. (CN/JR) Jim reminded the board that all requests for funds must follow protocol.

**New Business:** Jayne noted that Audubon Florida has joined with many other entities to prevent Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge from being shut down.

Jim summarized planning required for annual meeting: choosing speaker, setting a time/date, and initiating the board-nomination process. Dan mentioned several possible candidates. There was general discussion about possible speakers and board candidates, with Dan and Gerri agreeing to contact a couple.

Jayne will look into the recent request for a chapter representative for Cayo Costa State Park.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 19, 2018

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m., followed by a program on sea turtles by Kelly Sloan of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.