

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2020

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

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Michele Bellinger, Brad Cornell, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels.

Minutes of May 21 meeting approved (JR/BC).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Reports for May and for the entire previous fiscal year, previously distributed by email, approved (CN/SM).

- Budget for 2020-2021 approved (BC/MB).
- \$86.95 for preparation of IRS Form 990-EZ and Schedule A for fiscal year ended 05/31/2020, approved CN/SM.
- IRS Form 990-EZ for the year ended 05/31/2020 and conflict of interest policy, approved (GR/CN).

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: Activity has been minimal, so there's no actual report except perhaps one new member.

Conservation/Brad: A handout detailing a few current conservation concerns was distributed. After discussion of the M-CORES Southwest-Central Florida Connector, the following was decided: Brad will draft a letter to the M-CORES taskforce and share it with the board for review before delivering it. The letter will reflect these chapter conclusions: Aside from the transportation components included in the project (roads, trains, etc.), ASWF supports more study of conservation land acquisition and preservation within the Southwest-Central Connector's proposed plan. The chapter supports the planning and implementation of good conservation outcomes.

Education/Jim: FGCU has acknowledged receipt of the chapter's approval of a scholarship recipient.

Field Trips/Jim: Physical distancing will be implemented for all trips (e.g., dividing into small groups with separate routes). The trip to Powell Creek Preserve will be on July 12.

Programs/Gerri: There are plenty of programs possibilities for next year, including Chauncey Goss as speaker for the Environmental Breakfast; however, it's still too early to know if there will be any in-person events.

Publicity/Carol: Carol is ready to publicize possible events as usual. There is money in the budget for PR if needed.

Newsletter/Jim R.: Send *Flyways* content to Courtney by the end of June and info for the monthly “Gmail blast” to Jim by the 23rd of the month.

National & State Audubon Updates/Brad: NAS is laying off some staff due to the pandemic; AF is holding steady; and Corkscrew will have a soft partial opening in July. \$200 for Steve Buczynski, the region’s AF rep, was approved (BC/SM). (Note: \$200-250 approved last month).

Old Business/Jim R.: Jim is preparing the solicitation letter to Environmental Breakfast sponsors and will be ordering washable/reusable plates. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, at Riverside Community Center, provided the facility is open and the chapter feels it is prudent to have it. An online version is an option.

Several candidates for the Environmentalist of the Year were discussed, but a decision was delayed until the next meeting. Board member will meanwhile discuss the issue via email.

New Business/Jim R.:

- There were 59 ballots for the online board election, with all candidates elected: Dan, Jim, Brad, and Sean.
- The board elected (BC/CN) the following officers: Gerri, president; Dan, vice president; Michelle, secretary; and Jim R., treasurer and 2nd vice president.
- Committee chair appointments were: Audit—Jim R.; Budget—all; Conservation—Brad & Sean co-chairs; Education—all; Environmental Breakfast—Brad program chair & Jim R. facility chair; Field Trips—Jim R.; Hospitality—Carol M.; Newsletter—Courtney; membership—Jim (temporary); Nominations—all; Programs—Gerri; Publicity—Carol N.; Web Liaison—Jim B. and Jim R.; Facebook/social media—Pete; Everglades Coalition delegate—Pete; and Estero Bay Agency for Bay Management rep—Sean. See full committee list for members and alternates.
- Online meeting options were discussed.
- \$150 for EcoVoice approved (SM/JR). (Note: This is in addition to the standard \$100 in the new budget.)

Next Meeting Date: The board meeting will be held Thursday, August 20, 2020. Location TBD. As usual, there will be no July board meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.