

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
September 21, 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, Courtney Kern, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Two Colloquium students from FGCU also attended.

Minutes of August meeting approved unanimously (JR/BC)

Treasurer's Report: August report presented by Jim and approved (GR/JJ)

Committee Reports

Membership: Jayne reported there were no new chapter memberships and about 25 new national ones.

Conservation: Brad said the county's purchase of Edison Farms is something celebrate; however, a better PDR program to protect the DRGR is needed. He reviewed and reiterated the importance of Audubon Florida's Florida Forever campaign and the plan for individual chapters establishing local priorities and setting up meetings with legislators. Suggested priorities for ASWF are CREW lands; CHNEP flatwoods; and the Imperial River watershed. Flooding in the latter is a talking point: we "cannot afford to develop" there and the lands should be preserved. Florida Audubon will also be training a representative from each chapter

The potluck at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary for volunteers is still a possibility if electricity is restored. Otherwise, it will be held at another location.

A winter intern is needed for Shorebird Stewardship.

Update on legal action regarding proposed boardwalk on Little Estero Island: The Town of Fort Myers Beach denied the developer a coastal construction control line (CCCL) permit.

Education: Jayne said the hurricane delayed starting the after-school bird club at Veterans Park Elementary School. She and Melinda L. have the support of the principal, some faculty support, and a grant. The students will name the club.

Courtney has been officially notified that she is the recipient of the chapter's annual scholarship at FGCU.

Field Trips: Jim reported that the first field trip had to be cancelled due to the hurricane and previewed the line-up of field trips. Vince will lead the Hawk Watch in October.

Programs: Gerri apologized for not getting out the flyer for the September program sooner. (Hurricane "lag" seemed to be a general complaint.) Two weeks lead time is needed for all announcements from her and from Carol.

Publicity: Carol reported on Neil's plans for his Environmental Breakfast presentation and will forward a short list of special guests he wants to be invited. She will obtain 150 place settings (real, not plastic) for the event.

She will send press releases for both programs and field trips, including to EcoVoice.

Gerri reported that Jim B. has the new website all but completed. The only pending item is meeting with Jim R. to decide on a payment method for the site so Jim B. can set it up. The site will debut in November.

Newsletter: All content for the fall *Flyways* should be sent to Courtney immediately, since today is the deadline.

National and State Audubon Updates: Brad reminded us of the upcoming Audubon Assembly in St. Augustine and said that sea-level rise and local priorities were among the topics to be highlighted there.

New Business: A nominee for the Environmentalist of the Year Award was chosen out of four nominees. Jim will have the plaque made.

Jim reviewed the organizational plans for the Environmental Breakfast and summarized funds received, which came in quicker than last year's. He distributed a planning sheet and the program agenda.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 19, 2017

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m., followed by Jayne's program on "Living With Panthers Initiative."

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.