

Audubon of SW Florida, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 2008 - 6 PM
Eco Living Center, Ft. Myers

Chair: VP Carol Newcomb-Jones

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:10

Attending:

Board: Gene Csonka, Mari Hanley, Carol Newcomb-Jones, Gerri Reaves, Carl Veaux, Kelly Williamson,

Members/Guests: Cheryl Clark, Roger Clark, Ted Morningstar, Conny Spurfeld, Dan Van Norman

Minutes: Feb. minutes approved as posted to website.

Membership: Online webforms have been updated, and new membership remittance envelopes are at the printer.

Treasury: Tony Miller reported via email on March 16: I have an auditor's statement to the effect that everything is in good order as of mid February...As of right now our checking balance is \$3823 and our stock portfolio is worth \$66,397."

The license to solicit is being completed and submitted to the state.

Education programs: Chair Rebecca Austin has submitted a revised FGCU scholarship announcement for website posting. Discussion ensued about the need for further clarifications re: eligibility. A motion was approved to more precisely define the description (e.g., Can graduate students be considered?; Should the amount be reduced, given the state of our investment fund? Should we offer more than one scholarship? (i.e., divide the funds to benefit more students) The committee will work out the details and share them with the board, hopefully before the next meeting so action can be taken ASAP. Gene is considering assuming the chair, if other members take on the principal duties for festivals.

Conservation: Carol will chair the committee and attend Regional Conservation Committees whenever possible, including an upcoming joint meeting in Sarasota.

Recent Sign-ons: Coalition to oppose baseball stadium at Edison Farms; congratulations letter to "Rock" Salt (Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army [Civil Works] Everglades restoration); thank-you letters to Sen. Nelson and the Florida House Members for voting for final Senate consideration and approval of the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY 2009.

Field trips/events:

Recently represented: Pete Quasius led birding 101 intro March 7 for Bunche Beach wading trip; Pres. Maria Quasius attended RiverWatch cruise at Swamp Cabbage Festival in La Belle.

Forthcoming: Big O birding festival, April 3/4th, 2009; Fichter's Creek Strand on March 21 w/Roger Clark; Urban Birding in downtown Fort Myers w/Roger Clark (July or August), focusing on purple martins, gray kingbirds, etc.

Programs: None are planned until early fall. Send suggestions to Gerri or Carl.

Fairs and festivals:

Represented: Gene Csonka manned display at the Burrowing Owl Festival in Cape Coral. Pascha Donaldson sent a "thank you" to all organizations that participated and said the event will be renamed Burrowing Owl Environmental Festival. Next year it will be held on Sat. Feb. 27, 2010 (This 4th Sat. will not be competing with the Edison Parade events.)

Forthcoming: Earth Day at Koreshan State Park. Volunteers are needed to assist Gene.

Gene said more brochures and general supplies for events are needed.

Web report: The homepage has been reorganized to stress chapter membership. Carol offered to tweak the website (work on margins, etc.), if our webmaster and the board approved. A motion was approved to allow her to access the website, with the approval and collaboration of the webmaster.

Birdathon: Toby Clark (incoming new board member) is interested in reviving our traditional chapter fundraiser. Mari discussed "E-Bird" and "Birdtech" and suggested that the chapter submit old and new birding data to this project. E-bird.org is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

PR/Flyways: Kelly has completed a 4-page spring edition of Flyways.

Old business:

A motion was approved to oppose Bonita Bay's North River Village's proposal to amend the county's comprehensive plan. The following were elected to the 2009 Board of Directors, following Gerri's statement that voting indicates the voter's affirmation that she or he is a current paid member of the chapter and therefore eligible to vote (per chapter bylaws). Toby Clark and Conny Spurfeld's names were entered into nomination.

President: Gerri Reaves

V/P: Carol Newcomb-Jones

2nd VP Treasurer: Rebecca Austin

Secretary/Electronic Communications: Pete Quasius, Mari Hanley--web calendar, Steve Brookman—webmaster*

Programs: Gerri Reaves, Carl Veaux

Newsletter: Kelly Williamson (editor), Carol Newcomb-Jones & Gerri Reaves

Festivals: Gene Csonka

Conservation: Carol Newcomb-Jones (chair), Tony Miller, Pete Quasius, Brad Cornell –Audubon of Florida staff*

Education: Rebecca Austin, Tina Csonka, Gene Csonka, Kelly Williamson

Membership: Maria Quasius

Birdathon: Toby Clark

Member at large: Conny Spurfeld

Positions to be filled:

Field Trips:

Hospitality:

Parliamentarian:

Meeting adjourned at 6:55

Annual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:55.

Attending: (see above)

Treasurer's Report: Re: Documentation for the transfer of treasury authority is being assembled and completed. Gerri and Rebecca will visit 5/3 Bank next to sign docs, and the investment account forms will be submitted as well.

Changes to bylaws adopted. (Note: Bylaws revisions approved by board at Feb. 19 meeting)

Chair appointments: Carol for conservation committee; education TBD

Incoming President's statement: Gerri thanked the membership for placing confidence in her and expressed enthusiasm for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

Program: Dr. Jerry Jackson presented "Owls of SW Florida." Approximately 28 people attended.