

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
April 20, 2017
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Cheryl Black, Jayne Johnston, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and nominee Courtney Kern.

March Minutes Approved (GR/CN)

Treasurer's Report: Dan reported on Jim Rodenfels behalf that all was well financially and that the only pending item was the approval of the design of the annual-meeting postcard, as well as the funds to print and mail it. Approved unanimously (GR/CB).

Cheryl reported that the photo contest earned approximately \$150 (a. 220 cost minus 70 costs). Entries were about 2/3 of the usual. There was general agreement on her proposal to skip a year to refresh the contest.

Membership: Jayne submitted a report from December 2016 through March and noted the surge in chapter membership with the start of the new year after our annual solicitation. Chapter membership increased by 37 to 123 members, but national membership decreased (1267 to 1156).

Conservation and Advocacy: Dan summarized Brad's emailed report, which highlighted the following:

Audubon Florida's hiring of an Anchor Steward for Lee County/Ft. Myers Beach for the nesting season (April - Sept 1); Shorebird Steward Training on April 23 at Lovers Key SP; request from Poinciana Garden Club for a program on attracting birds to yards; Lee BCC's transmittal of Troyer Bros's mine proposal (opposed by chapter) to the State for review as a comprehensive plan amendment; status of Everglades bill (SB10); and the FL Legislature's all-but elimination of Florida Forever funding, despite supports by ranchers and Audubon.

Carol provided a brief update on the proposed 40+ ball fields at Babcock Ranch. The board needn't consider the matter further, since the field project is not going forward.

Education: Jayne and Melinda Lynch will proceed over the summer to establish a bird club with the elementary school. Jayne said that since the education chair was becoming vacant as of next month, she would like to take on that role in lieu of membership chair.

Carol noted editorial piece in the April 20 *News-Press* by Audubon Florida's Eric Draper. Carol pointed out that Draper's plan for collaborating with FPL by planting of wildlife-friendly native-plant buffer zones around their new solar-energy fields might be something the chapter could be involved in.

Dan presented his innovative bluebird-box prototype made of Conservation 20/20 posters (plastic corrugated cardboard). He will explore possible sites for them, as well as for the wooden boxes he has constructed.

Field Trips: Dan reported that 20 people (stated limit) participated on the April 8 trip to the Florida Audubon property at Koreshan Historic SP. The next trip will be on May 13 to Powell Creek Preserve.

Programs: John Cassani will speak at the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 3.

Old Business: Carol summarized options re: the management of the website. The board agreed to discuss at the next meeting the possible transition over the coming year to a board-member webmaster.

New Business: Carol listed the area's Earth Day events and the marches scheduled in Centennial Park on April 29.

Dan will send a sympathy card on the board's behalf to the family of former ASWF board member Barbara Bacon, who died recently.

The next Board meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18.

The meeting was adjourned 6:57 (JJ/GR), followed by a program by Kara Lefevre of FGCU.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.