

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
April 19, 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 Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Courtney Kern, Carol Newcomb, Pete Quasius, Gerri Reaves, & Jim Rodenfels. Guest Sean McCabe was also in attendance.

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 March 15 meeting approved (JR/JJ).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Two expenditures were approved (PQ/GR): printing & mailing for annual meeting and rent for Masonic Lodge.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne: March 2018: 1178 national & 77 chapter (includes 17 renewals & 6 new)

Conservation/Brad: Concerns about the BOCC's seeming reluctance to purchase more land and replenish 20/20 funds were highlighted. Audubon Florida has hired Courtney as the new anchor shorebird steward. Training will take place this Saturday, April 21, 9 to 11 a.m. at Lovers Key.

Brad gave status reports on Corkscrew Road traffic impacts, which involves several developments, including Verdana and Wild Blue. Issues include the importance of hydrologic and wildlife linkages, crossings, and fencing, because of threats to the Florida panther.

Other topics were the replacement of the San Carlos drawbridge and 500 available acres in Lehigh Acres. Pete will speak to the BOCC on purchasing the acreage.

Gerri asked for clarification on policies re: speaking on behalf of the chapter. The content should be consistent with the chapter's stated priorities and, ideally, the board's permission obtained.

Education/Jayne: The student bird club will participate in a debris clean-up for birds in Veterans Park on Monday, April 23. The club will take a Tarpon Bay kayak trip, hopefully on Tuesday, May 22. Funds up to \$300 for the latter were approved (BC/GR). The club's last meeting will be May 21. Jayne hopes to continue a club next year, even if at a different school. Teacher-sponsor Melinda Lynch is changing jobs. Jayne is exploring starting a Trash to Cash program at Bonita Charter School.

Field Trips/Jim: Jayne led the trip to Matanzas on Pass Preserve on March 17. Caloosahatchee Regional Park and Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve are planned on April 28 and May 12, respectively.

Programs/Gerri: Tonight's program and LeBuff's program for the annual meeting are the only ones remaining for the year.

Publicity/Carol: The programs are receiving good press, particularly in the *News-Press*, which makes them a special feature with a photo.

Newsletter/Courtney: Send articles ASAP—no later than April 23--for the spring issue of *Flyways*.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Jim detailed plans for the annual meeting on May 26 and distributed relevant materials. Charles LeBuff will be the speaker on “The American Crocodile in Florida” and he will sell his books at the event. Teddy will design the postcard announcement and it will be mailed approximately May 1. Donations envelopes will be printed too. Only the names of board nominees as of tonight will be printed on the postcard, but other nominations can be taken from the floor at the meeting or nominees can be appointed later. Sean McCabe offered his name for the slate of candidates.

Jim distributed info (planning list, etc.) for the October 25 Environmental Breakfast. Dan said it’s already time to consider who will receive the Environmentalist of the Year Award and decide on a program topic.

Pete suggested allocating funds in our next budget for the production costs for the drone surveys of rookeries in the Caloosahatchee.

Gerri’s research has revealed that the chapter was chartered 60 years ago as of last month.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 17, 2018

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m., followed by a program on piping plovers by Audrey Albrecht from the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.