

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: January 28, 2014
Approved Date: February 25, 2014
SMUD Meeting Rooms

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

Role Call: Board Members Present: Linda Pittman, Subhash Chand, Cathie LaZier, Keith Wagner, Tim Fitzer, Karen Zumwalt, Darrel Mohr, Gary Fregien. **Board Members Absent:** Sally Walters, Don Schmoltd, Jonilynn Okano.

Approval of Minutes: Draft November 2013 Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus as circulated.

President's Report (Linda):

- Linda reported that National Audubon will be having its national board meeting in Sacramento this coming weekend. NAS is interested in having SAS members/officers join them on a tour of Staten Island. Linda may go.

Treasurer's report (Cathie):

- Cathie circulated monthly report prior to meeting.
- Cathie specifically reports that 2014 SAS Calendar sales did not fare as well as had been hoped.
 - The calendar itself is beautiful, but sales were not as robust as had been projected. Current accounting shows a current net loss of \$478.
 - Subhash asks if the calendars were priced too high. Cathie responds she thinks not, because at the CVBC, they reduced the sale price to just \$5 per calendar, and still were not able to sell many.
 - Darrel suggests that excess calendars might be donated to organization that sends them to GI's overseas.

Corresponding Secretary's report (Karen):

- Mail from P.O. Box passed around at Board Meeting for review.
- Thank you letter from ARNHA received regarding SAS support for NatureFest.

Membership (Cathie for Lea):

- Chapter currently has 2,907 members assigned by National.
- Chapter currently has 535 dues paying chapter members, 193 are cross over with National.
- Cathie has forwarded e-mail from Lea with list of non-renewing chapter members to the Board, in case any Board members personally know the non-renewing members and might contact them to ask them to renew.

Programs Report (Cathie and other Board members for Sally):

- The speaker for the January Meeting (Saw Whet Owls) got the dates confused and missed the meeting.
- Subhash filled in with one of his speakers bureau presentations. Board members who were present noted that despite the confusion and change, the presentation went well. All thanked Subhash for stepping in at the last minute.
- Cathie, in Sally's absence, reports that the remainder of this year's presentations (February through May) do have speakers reserved, but that due to Sally and Don's personal circumstances, we will need individual Board members to step up to help with A/V setup and be liaisons to the speakers.
- For 2014-2015 presentation season, Sally has transmitted notes and other information on leads to Cathie. Cathie notes that we have plenty of leads, but the Board will probably need a volunteer to take on setting up programs until Sally might be able to return.
- November 2014 Membership Meeting will be held one week earlier (2nd Thursday of the month) than in the past to try to cut down on conflicts with CVBC and Thanksgiving Holiday.

Outreach and Education (Cathie):

- Outreach:
 - Galt Winter Bird Festival is next Saturday.
 - Other upcoming events include Walk on the Wild Side and Sacramento Zoo.
 - Cathie will send out e-mail requesting volunteers to help as needed.
- Education:
 - Educational presentations/field trips being held in conjunction with Effie Yeaw Nature Center are going well, but SAS needs more volunteers who are comfortable working with children to sign up to lead such trips.
 - Kids Christmas Bird Count on January 11, 2014, at Effie Yeaw was a tremendous success and well attended. SAS will definitely do it again next year.

Resale Merchandise (Cathie):

- SAS placed an ad for a resale merchandise chair in the Observer. We have had a call back, and Cathie is following up.
- SAS needs a replacement liaison to cover Loehmann's Plaza Wild Birds store in Sally and Don's place.

Conservation (Keith):

- Keith reports his new work circumstances have even further adversely impacted his ability to significantly engage on conservation issues. Keith is pondering options for finding a new Conservation Chair as his replacement.
- McKinley Village Park project in the City of Sacramento has raised concerns among the Sacramento Area environmental community, but mostly with regard to issues such as traffic and density. Keith is not aware of any bird or birding specific concerns or objections at this time.

OTHER REPORTS

- Tim Fitzer: is coordinating a trip to Arcata on Presidents' Day Weekend, has about 12 people signed up already, has room for more, will take as many as are interested in going.
- Subhash Chand: has reviewed National Audubon's latest strategic plan and was interested to note how strongly they are now focusing on habitat conservation, even as they deemphasize other activities such as focusing on children or education. Keith notes, in response, that National is probably just following the money, and that it will now be even more important for local chapters to back fill on areas that National is deemphasizing.

OLD BUSINESS

Bobelaine Exploratory Committee (Keith):

- Due to a lack of available time since last meeting, Keith reports that there is no further developments or news on planning for Bobelaine's future.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Coastal Commission Directory Listing:** Linda passes around flyer/form for organizations to sign up to be included in the Coastal Commission's resources directory. Subhash agrees to follow up on submitting SAS' listing.
- **Splash! Donation for \$500.** Splash has requested a \$500 donation for education. Cathie reports that Maureen Geiger, Chris Conard and Dan Kopp have all expressed support. Motion to donate \$500 for education to Splash! (LaZier/Chand). Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- **CVBC Scholarship for Travel:** Last year SAS approved a donation of \$500 to cover travel for CVBC Scholarship recipient(s). Maureen Geiger, through Cathie, requests same this year. Motion to donate up to \$500 to CVBC to cover travel for CVBC scholarship recipient (Mohr/Fitzer). Motion approved by unanimous vote.
- **Yolo Burrowing Owl Breeding Pair Survey/Census.** Linda has received a request from a Woodland organization seeking funding support for a BuOw breeding pair census in Yolo county. Linda reports Yolo Audubon is not donating, but rather allowing a limited (300 word) write up in its newsletter soliciting volunteers but not funds. After discussion, SAS Board decides to put over until February Board meeting so we can learn more. Linda to contact Roger Adamson w/ Yolo Audubon to learn more, Cathie to check in with Chris Conard.
- **Learning Exchange Request for Beginning Birding Instructor/Class.** Request made by learning exchange. Cathie reports Maureen Geiger did such a class a few years ago, but it didn't work out so well. No action taken by board, no volunteers to teach class (although SAS will continue to promote and offer its own beginning birder field trips, as in the past).
- **SAS Board Guidelines on Promoting Fundraising Activities of Other Organizations.** Subhash circulated memorandum outlining SAS resources for

publicizing fundraising events by others and asking for guidance as to how to decide what groups' events SAS will promote or advertise. After some Board discussion, Keith agreed to work up a draft proposal for consideration at the February Board meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.