

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: February 23, 2016
Approved Date: March 29, 2016
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members Present:, Marcia Ferkovich, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Bill Bianco, Sally Walters, Jane Taylor, Thomas Cadle, Karen Cadle. **Board Members Absent:** Larry Hickey, Subhash Chand, Linda Pittman. **Note:** at Larry's request, the February Board meeting was chaired by Keith (recording secretary) in Larry's (president), Subhash's (vice-president), and Linda's (past president) absence.

Approval of Minutes: January 2015 Draft Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus.

Public Comment/Guest Presentation: Margaret Gabil, Birding Sacramento Area App for Android.

Margaret Gabil presented a smartphone application that she and her son have been working on in consultation and coordination with Subhash, based on the information and maps in SAS' Birding in the Sacramento Region book. Margaret came up with the idea after she purchased a copy of the book, but found it difficult to use in real time in the field without a SAS group/field trip guide.

The app is formatted for the Android platform. Margaret gave the board a live demonstration of how the beta app works on her phone. At present the app has all of the information from the book on two geographical areas: the City of Sacramento and the American River Parkway. Now that the app's database has been designed to incorporate the maps and other information for those areas, entering the rest of the data from the book for other areas in the region is a data entry job utilizing the database/templates already created for the two areas already completed.

To demonstrate how the app works, Margaret specifically pulled up the American River Parkway information in the app, and then demonstrated the online trail guide features for Howe River Access. The app interfaces with Google Maps to provide real time locations and directions while the user is on the trail. The informational portions of the book describing the area and birds that might be seen are in a "read more" section of the App.

Margaret then demonstrated how trails/places to bird in the app can also be reviewed and selected by viewing "pins" on a Google Map. Or the user can pull up a list of named trails to choose from. The app also has a search feature allowing the user to

pick a desired bird, and then the app will list locations where the specified bird is likely to be seen. Margaret demonstrated this feature with purple martins and bald eagles. The app also has a search by location feature, which Margaret demonstrated by searching for birding locations near Discovery Park.

The app already has a “donate to SAS” button on each of its screens, which leads the user to the SAS website. The app also has buttons so that a user can share a link to download the app on their own social media apps (e.g., on their Facebook page or Twitter account). Once the app goes “live,” getting the word out about its availability could also be done through SAS’ website and newsletters, and perhaps even through information provided by other organizations and local, state and federal government agencies. Info on SAS’ mission and disclaimers of SAS liability for users of the app are also already included.

The Board asked whether there will be a charge to download the app, or will it be free? Margaret recommends that when it is completed the app should be free from the app store. The Board asked whether there is an iPhone version. Margaret responded that for now the app will only be on the open source android platform due to difficulties and costs of accessing permission to use Apple’s proprietary iOS programming platform.

Margaret informed the Board that her presentation was informational, and she and her son will continue to work on putting the information from the book into the app. She has no specific requests for Board action at this time. Margaret asked if SAS has any volunteers that could help with augmenting the content in the app beyond that in the book and perhaps provide photos, and also whether SAS might have any volunteers that could help with the administrative work of entering info from book into the apps database. Right now, she and her son are limiting the information they are putting into the app to mirror the information that is contained in the 2008 publication of the book. She does not have access to, and is not including at this time, the updates that Chris Conard, Linda Pittman, and others have been working on more recently.

Margaret asked if the Board might approve a stipend or grant to compensate her son for the ongoing work and time he is spending to transcribe the information from the 2008 book into the app’s database. After some discussion, the Board agreed that it might consider such a request after Subhash returns and has an opportunity to work with Margaret on a specific funding request to consider at a future Board meeting. The Board also recommended that Margaret work up and provide to Subhash and the Board a list of potential volunteer opportunities to help support development and deployment of the app. The Board commended Margaret for the very high quality of the app so far, and thanked Margaret for her presentation and work on the app to date.

President’s Report (Larry):

- Larry had a planned absence for this Board meeting, and will provide an updated President’s report at the March Board meeting.

- **Nominations Committee:** Before the meeting Larry asked Keith to address establishing a Nominations Committee for the 2016-2017 Board recommended slate of officers and directors. Keith recommended that the Nominations committee be Keith and Subhash in informal consultation with Larry. The Board agreed to Keith's recommendation by consensus, which Keith agreed to pass on to Larry and Subhash.

Treasurer (Marcia):

- Due to tax season workload issues at her office, Marcia did not have time to prepare an updated Treasurer's report for this meeting. She will provide an updated report at the March Board meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

- Diana circulated mail that had recently arrived at the P.O. Box for board review.
- Diana is out of preprinted SAS letterhead and envelopes. She will be working with Carmichael Printers to get more letterhead and envelopes with SAS new logo.

Membership:

- The Board did not receive updated membership information for this meeting from Mara, the new Membership Chair. An updated membership report will be provided at a future Board meeting.

Programs (Sally):

- All remaining membership presentations for the 2016 season (through the May 2016 membership meeting) have been planned. The list of presenters/topics is available for review at the SAS website.

Outreach (Bill):

- Bill circulated an updated list of upcoming Outreach events for Board member review. The list circulated by Bill notes which events still need volunteers.
- At the February membership meeting Paul Tebbel asked if one of the two SAS Coffee Pots at Effie Yeaw (which is not in use) can be donated to Sierra Foothills Audubon for use at their meetings. **MOTION:** Diana/Marcia to donate one of SAS' coffee pots to Sierra Foothills Audubon Society. Motion Passed Unanimously.
- Bill has received a suggestion that SAS provide its field trip leaders with "official" nametags for identification purposes. Bill has researched sources, and has found a vendor who will provide the tags for \$7.35/tag for an order of 15 or more tags. Bill has checked with Cathie LaZier, who attends the Field Activities meetings, and Cathie will be getting a list of names to Bill for the tags, plus he may also add some other names for volunteers who are doing SAS educational presentations or helping with outreach events. Tom suggested that it might be

helpful if the nametags might also include a phrase along the lines of “ask me about membership in SAS.” Other Board members suggested that maybe an adhesive ribbon (like those used on nametags for presenters at conventions and trade shows) could be printed and used for such purposes. **MOTION:** Diana/Marcia to approve a budget of up to \$250 to print such tags. Motion passed unanimously. Bill will continue his research and report on status at the March Board meeting.

- Effie Yeaw will be hosting a beginning birders program in April/May. Paul Tebbel has requested that SAS donate birding checklists to Effie Yeaw for the event. By consensus the Board approved donating 100 birding checklists to Effie Yeaw for this program.
- Diversity Workshops, Audubon CA. Audubon CA sent an e-mail to Bill, who attended their meetings on the topic, with 7 attachments yesterday. 5 docs are new. Bill has forward the e-mail and its attachments to Larry (who also attended Audubon CA’s meetings on the topic) to review. Bill will forward the same e-mail and attachments to the Board to bring back for discussion at a future Board meeting.
- At the SAS Membership Meeting at Effie Yeaw on Thursday, Bruce Foreman with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife informally spoke with Bill and Sally to inform them that that CDFW is now filming the water conservation film that SAS has helped to sponsor. Bruce also said he would like to offer SAS Board members that might like to attend an opportunity to come and observe this years Nature Bowl, and told Bill and Sally that he would send more info to Larry.

Education:

- There was no formal report. SAS is still seeking an Education Chair. No present Board members had any items to report regarding informal education activities or presentations since the last Board meeting.

Conservation (Larry)

- Larry had a planned absence for this Board meeting, and will provide an updated Conservation report at the March Board meeting.

Communications (Subhash):

- Subhash had a planned absence for this Board meeting, and will provide an updated Communications report at the March Board meeting.

Old Business:

- **Bobelaine** (Diana for Larry). Members of the Bobelaine Committee (Larry, Bill, Gary Fregein, and Diana) have recently made several visits to Bobelaine. They met with the former manager/caretaker Robert Thomas and documented management activities that are needed. Larry has contacted the Sacramento

Regional Conservation Corps seeking help with the labor needed. The Conservation Corps has most recently responded with a proposal to come out to Bobelaine 1 day a month for 5 months a year (during the season when work/maintenance is needed most) for \$6,000. Even with the Conservation Corps providing labor, SAS will still need a lead volunteer who can direct and guide the work to be done, and possibly other volunteers to lead Conservation Corps field trips and education sessions regarding Bobelaine. Working with the Conservation Corps would have the added benefit of advancing the diversity goals sought by Audubon CA. Diana recommended that SAS continue to seek estimates from other sources for handling routine maintenance such as trail mowing, and instead reserve bringing in the Conservation Corps crews for specific, major, one-time activities, like brush clearing and similar large scale events. Marcia knows a company that does similar routine maintenance work for PG&E. They may be available/interested in giving SAS a quote for routine work that needs to be done. Diana reported that the routine mowing that needs to be done involves about 5 linear miles of trails. Diana noted that some significant clearing and mowing work is needed right away, as it is spring and no significant maintenance has yet been done this year. The Board approved the Bobelaine Committee to make any short term management decisions necessary to secure access and safety at Bobelaine for the next month, as their investigations and reports back to the Board on options for long term solutions will be ongoing. Sally noted that the unauthorized flying of drones is becoming an additional issue at Bobelaine. The Board agreed that Sally can/should investigate securing “no drones” signage for Bobelaine, and contact Diana with the results of her investigations.

- **Big Day of Giving** (Karen): Karen is working on e-mails to be sent out to email lists for the Big Day of Giving.
- **Recognizing SAS Volunteer Service:** By consensus the Board authorized a donation of \$250 to ARNA/Effie Yeaw to recognize Lea Landry for her service to SAS as Membership Chair; and \$250 to ARNA/Effie Yeaw to recognize Robert Thomas for his long time volunteer service as manager/caretaker of Bobelaine.

New business:

- **Climate Change Workshop** (Jane): Jane attended a Climate Change Workshop hosted by Audubon CA, at which a powerpoint presentation was given based on research and information developed by National Audubon. 314 bird species in North America are at peril from climate change. At the workshop Audubon CA sought to brainstorm ideas on what chapters can do to help. Audubon CA encouraged each chapter to adopt a project to raise awareness about these important issues (reducing carbon footprint, sponsoring a lobby day, developing a chapter climate change webpage, or similar efforts). Jane suggested there are many aligned groups in the Sacramento area that SAS might partner with in such efforts (e.g., CNPS, H2020, etc) to promote backyard

habitat projects or similar local efforts. Jane is interested in working on organizing such projects/efforts, and suggested that SAS may want to encourage/ask H2020 (SAS' Conservation Committee) to organize a climate change subcommittee to help support such projects/efforts.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.