

MINUTES

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: August 27, 2019; 6:30 p.m.

Location: Turley and Associates

2431 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA

I. Meeting called to order at 6:42pm.

A. Roll Call:

1. Board Members Present: Jane Van Kessel, Diana Hickson, Elliott Chasin, Bill Bianco, Harriett Saeck, Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Gesna Clarke
2. Board Members Absent: Grant Boice, Sally Walters
3. Approval of Minutes (May 2019): approved by email 06/15/19

II. Guests / Public Comment: John Harding (website committee member)

III. Presentations: None

IV. Officer Reports

A. President (Bill): [8]

1. Barbara Kline gave \$100 donation to SAS from sale of her books. Question about mentioning her book in the newsletter. Need to add guidelines for this type of situation in our policies and procedures.
2. Our CA Audubon contact, Ariana Rickard, was laid off from CA Audubon. Not sure who the new contact will be.
3. Nicole Larsen is advertising for field trips to Africa and has asked us to mention them at our monthly meeting. Bill will investigate a bit more about the company before we decide.
4. Sarah Rose from CA Audubon has invited us to a dinner on Sep 26th at River Garden Farms.

B. Treasurer (Harriet): [10]

1. Local dues is exactly same amount as last year (to the dollar). We got a bit more in donations than last year. With events, we break even (Farallons, etc.). Spent 7800 on grants; 3200 for sponsorships last year. We spent a little over our grant budget and a little under our sponsorship budget.
2. Observer printing still costs significantly more than the dues are bringing in.
3. Budget. Still needs to be completed because of the unknowns around website update expenses.
4. Harriett will pay domain registry for the website. \$50

C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana): [5] Liability insurance—went to Bill. Sandhill Crane Fest requests that we sponsor them.

D. Other Officers (if anything to report): None

V. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports.

A. Board Member and Chair Transitions (Sally): None

B. Programs (Anthony Asay): None

C. Outreach (Bill): All set for the 3 events we have this fall.

- D. Education (Gesna): [5] Hoping to get enough registrants for Nature Bowl at Camp Pollock. Coaches' training will be Jan 21. Semi-finals will be March 31st.
1. Featured articles in the Observer: Gesna has been spearheading this. Feature on Wendy showed what she's doing in the field of conservation. Looking for ideas about things/people to spotlight: doing things outside the box / beyond the usual birding and leading trips, etc. She's doing a presentation Sep 17th to a community group.
- E. Membership (Jane): [5] Currently there are 582 SAS members. So far, 143 of this have elected to receive email newsletters. There were 9 new SAS members this past month. 6 past members were made inactive because they hadn't paid their dues for over 4 months. We now have 1/4 of our membership who have elected to receive their newsletters via email!! There are 2,505 National Audubon members who live in our chapter area. There were 39 new National Audubon members who live in our Chapter area.
- F. Communications (Wendy): None
- G. Resale Merchandise (Becky Norris) (Bill): None
- H. Conservation (Elliot): [10]
1. Focus for the next year for Hab 2020 will be Natomas area. Sac Heron and Egret Rescue presented at their last meeting on the arena pond, upper west side. Arena pond was meant to be a baseball field, has filled with water, has some native trees around it. Provides lacustrine habitat. Heron rookery has taken up residence. Owners want to develop the site. Will continue to follow it.
 2. June meeting of 2020: Proposed hospital near Elk Grove. Hospital would be right next to Stone Lakes, with a helicopter pad. Might want one of us to go to the Elk Grove City Planning Committee meeting to support 2020.
- I. Bobelaine Committee (Larry, Bill): [8] Diana will look into the zoning status. We need to put in signage for no bikes and no pets. Expense will come up for mule and tractor to get work done. Mary Huffington (niece of person who put the land aside)—she had some questions. The committee took her up there for a tour of Bobelaine. She offered to help out up there: redo kiosk, put in more benches, put up bird boxes; she has also offered monetary assistance.
- J. Other Committee Reports (if any): None
- K. SAS Website Committee (Gesna): [15]
1. Gesna provided update on committee activities up to this point. Researched other chapters' websites, including LA, Chicago, San Diego. Asked for proposals from web design companies and from Sac City College design students. Group preferred the Sac City College option, but couldn't meet deadline for this semester; need approval from board to pursue next semester. Meanwhile, still need to move forward with developing content regardless of who we go with. We also need management and oversight of the website itself—John volunteered to be this person.
 2. Gesna provided overview of committee's wire diagram for new website.
 3. Comments from board on the rankings of options.
 - i. Monthly maintenance vs. Monthly updates? Maintenance is keeping the hardware updated. Keeping the system up and

running. Has nothing to do with our content. We do the monthly content updates ourselves in all these scenarios.

- ii. They all provide document storage.
- iii. If your website goes down, which of these people will be able to look into this and help us. SquareSpace would be in charge of the maintenance of their template. If we go down, SquareSpace has gone down and there are bigger problems than just us.
- iv. Want to get a number in the budget now.
- v. Motion to use the Sac City College option (Elliot, Jane 2nd) and add budget line item of \$3000 for this effort.

L. Board Member Reports (if any): None

VI. Old Business

- A. SAS Budget; SAS Dues: [20] More to come from Harriett. With the dues compared to newsletter, we're now 1:1 with publishing costs. If it continues like this, we're depending on donations plus dues from national as our only income. 5 years ago, it was 2:1 (only half of dues went to the newsletter printing). Should we increase dues? It has to be announced at a monthly meeting, but we don't need the membership's approval (want to confirm this).
 1. Motion (Harriet/Elliott) to raise dues \$10 starting in January 2020, to \$35 per year, given that we have confirmation our policies allow it. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- B. Donation request for appeal of Elk Grove SEPA mitigation case. Request is for \$1000: [5] Motion (Diana/Mary) to give them \$1,000. *Motion passed unanimously.*
 1. Elliott will get an update from Habitat 2020 and bring it to us at the next meeting.
- C. Donation request, Feather River Land Trust. Trust is trying to add acreage. No set amount requested from SAS: [5]
 1. We gave them \$500 last year and the last few years.
 2. Request not approved.

VII. New Business

- A. Sponsorship request from Chris Conard for Central Valley Birding Symposium \$1000
 1. Motion (Jane/Diana) to give \$1000. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- B. Lease space for SAS archive documents
 1. Physical space to keep documents. Bill and Gesna both have boxes of documents. Ray Hathaway at Sac Tree Foundation has storage space. Waiting to find out how much he will charge.
 2. Also, we can use a meeting space over there. Sacramento Conservancy. Lathrop Way, by Costco.
- C. Editor compensation
 1. Motion (Diana/Gesna) to increase the Observer's professional fee by \$2 per hour. Works out to \$200 per year increase. *Motion passed unanimously.*
 2. Can we do a color newsletter for e-newsletter? Yes.

VIII. Adjournment: 9:02 pm.