

Minutes (APPROVED)

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: February 23, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order 6:32 pm
 - B. Roll Call
 1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Bill Bianco, Diana Hickson, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Elliot Chasin
 2. Board Members Absent: Heather White, Harriet Saeck
 - C. Approval of Minutes (January 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: NA
- III. Presentations: NA
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Yolo Basin Grant Update: Bill sent an email approving the change in use of grant funds. Change reflects how Yolo Basin has modified program to incorporate COVID 19 restrictions.
 2. Donated Bird Books and Antique Bells: Bill spoke with Effie Yeaw about displaying Antique Bells. At this time, they are not certain how they would use the antique bells. Until such a time as in-person meetings are taking place, Bill will hold onto books.
 3. Rapid Transit Bus Stop, on 9th between N and Capitol: Danielle emailed about birds hitting the glass of the bus stop, however, did not specify what action she hoped SAS would take. Bill will follow-up with Danielle.
 - B. Treasurer: Harriet absent. Financials submitted for review.
 - C. Corresponding Secretary
 1. Thank You Postcards: 2 designs submitted for consideration. Consensus that the larger picture and additional text are preferred. Recommendation to use the next size of postcard so that both additional text and larger picture can be included. Also recommend using a more regional abundant bird, such as the Yellow-billed Magpie or Burrowing Owl.
 2. Postcards would be sent for donations under \$250. For donations over \$250 board recommends purchasing nice bird-related notecards in which a thank you note can be written.
 3. Letterhead – Who has the JPG for the letterhead? Can we store it on the Board Member Documents on the webpage?
 - D. Other Officers
- V. Old Business
 - A. Bobelaine
 1. Email from neighbor (Lloyd) / Increasing available parking
 - a. Bill received an email from neighbor, Lloyd, complaining about the increase in visitation to Bobelaine. Lloyd mentioned advertising and SAS's communications with members as

part of the reason more people are coming to Bobelaine. Expressed opinion that expanding the parking will only lead to more visitors. Additionally, he feels the increased traffic is having a detrimental effect on wildlife. Lloyd's suggestion is to close Bobelaine to all but SAS members.

- b. Bill contacted California Audubon. Their response is that Bobelaine has always been open to the public. They also confirmed that all public outdoor spaces are experiencing increased traffic.
 - c. Recommendation from the Board is to not add additional parking at this time, wait and see if visitation goes down once people are able to go back to normal activities. Bill will monitor parking on days when visitor volume may be up.
 - d. Bill will write a reply to Lloyd.
2. Repair / Replace Shed Door: Received two bids from Sacs Door and Gate. One is to repair the existing doors, rollers and channel. The other is to revise the shed opening and install a roll up door with chain pull for opening. A roll-up door should last longer than the sliding doors, but costs more than twice much as simply repairing the current doors. Bill will try to get quotes from a second company.
- B. Birdability Committee – Name Change, Link to Equipment Website
1. Birdability.org asked that SAS use a different name for the committee and webpage. Paul recommends changing the name to the Accessibility Committee. Approved by consensus.
 2. Paul was asked by Birdability.org to write a blog about the adaptive equipment that he has developed and uses for birding. He created a website and blog. Paul is requesting the Board's approval to have a link to his website on the new Accessible Birding webpage on the SAS website. Nothing is for sale on Paul's webpage. Board approves linking to Paul's website from the SAS website by consensus.
- C. Bylaws
1. Webpage for voting on the bylaws is ready and will be posted to the website on the morning of March 18.
 2. Jane will email membership a reminder to vote with the link on the morning of March 18.
- D. SAS Scholarship
1. Daphne is in contact with UC DAVIS, Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology. This department is focused on habitat management. Daphne will be discussing with them the possibility of scholarships. From the board she is asking for thoughts on amounts, structure, number of scholarships, undergraduate vs. graduate candidates. The hope is that the department will do most of the work on selecting candidates and awarding scholarships.
 2. Looked into Sac State. They have biology degrees but nothing specific to birding.
- E. Effie Yeaw's Nature in the Classroom for Title 1 Schools
1. Via email, Board approved a motion to pay for 2 sessions of "Nature in the Classroom" at \$125 each for Ethel Phillips Elementary. (Daphne 1st, Jane 2nd) quorum reached February 18, 2021.
 2. The school will complete the necessary paperwork then Effie Yeaw will contact us for payment.
- F. Bird Flight Patterns Concert Video, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra: At this time the Board is not interested in this program.

- G. Nominating Committee: Diana is still looking for recommendations for potential board members. Please email her with any recommendations.

VI. New Business

- A. International Bird Rescue Grant Request [5]
 - 1. Request \$2000 grant. Previous request on May 2020 for \$2000. Granted August 25, 2020.
 - 2. Proposal to hold all grant decisions until after April 15, submission deadline. Board will review all grant requests for the period at the April Board Meeting.
- B. Ken Poerner, River Overlook sign - In recognition of his work at Bobelaine, the river overlook will be renamed the Ken Poerner River Overlook. Bill is waiting on a bid from the woodcarver who will create the sign. When he receives the bid, he will submit it to the board via email.
- C. Grant Partnership Opportunity - Vince King is writing a grant proposal for work at South Creek Park. Asking to name Sacramento Audubon Society as a supporter of work. California Native Plant Society has agreed to be named as a supporter. There may be a future request for additional assistance. Approval by consensus.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Membership (Jane)
- B. Education (Bill): Have received requests for speakers from a couple of groups. Will look at fulfilling these requests once COVID restrictions are lifted.
- C. Website (Mary)
 - 1. 141 Action Alert members as of Feb. 22, 2021
 - 2. Birding Locations Map and Information previewed – Nancy Kapellas and other website committee volunteers have been working with Maureen Geiger on creating interactive maps and current information for the Birding Locations page on the website. Goal is to have page ready to launch by end of March.
- D. Conservation (Elliot) - Proposed CNU Hospital in Elk Grove
 - 1. The Planning Commission voted 3-0 to not approve the CNU hospital proposal. 2 of the 5 city council members have recused themselves. Only 3 remain and all 3 must approve for the proposal to move forward. Representatives from ECOS met with one council member on February 22. A meeting is scheduled with the Elk Grove Mayor for the week of February 29. Additionally, ECOS has sent a letter to all council members and the mayor.
 - 2. Recommend sending an Action Alert with a headline emphasizing importance of those in Elk Grove responding. It should include the names and emails of 3 voting council members and mayor. Elliot will do a basic write-up and share it with Daphne and Mary to create an Action Alert.
- E. Outreach (Bill)
 - 1. CVB is sending out a survey to determine whether they will hold their Symposium in November.
 - 2. Effie Yeaw's Bird and Breakfast is scheduled to be held April 10 & 11 as an in-person event.
- F. Accessibility
 - 1. The three locations that are on the Accessible Birding webpage are fully compliant with the ADA. However, as we work to identify the Accessible Level of each site included on the Birding Locations page there are questions of legalities and exposure. If we identify a site as somewhat accessible then someone gets hurt, what is our exposure?

2. Will work with the Web Committee on incorporating Accessibility Information into Birding Locations page.

G. Other Committee Reports

H. Board Member Reports

VIII. Adjournment 8:25