

## **Minutes (Approved)**

### **Sacramento Audubon Society**

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Date / Time: January 26, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
  - A. Call to Order 6:35 pm
  - B. Roll Call
    1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Elliot Chasin, Bill Bianco, Diana Hickson, Harriet Saeck, Nancy Gronert
    2. Board Members Absent: Heather White
  - C. Approval of Minutes (October 2020) – Approved with corrections, unanimously
- II. Guests / Public Comments: Paul Miller
- III. Presentations: Birdability Committee
  - A. The vision for the Birdability Committee is to identify and document existing birding locations within the Sacramento Area with specific amenities that will allow individuals with a wide range of special needs to enjoy birding and develop an outreach program to foster involvement.
  - B. Paul's motivation in forming this committee comes from his own experiences. Paul has a form of muscular dystrophy. Initially, he thought he wouldn't be able to bird because he can't use optics. Paul developed supports for his binoculars and a device to electronically focus the binoculars. His muscular dystrophy is slowly progressing. Using a wheelchair is new to him. About 6 months ago he began to look for others birding in a similar fashion. He found Virginia Rose and the Birdability Movement. He also connected Maureen Geiger and Bill who began to work with him on identifying accessible birding locations.
  - C. How will this new committee work?
    1. Volunteers are needed to help document locations that fit the definition of accessible birding locations, i.e. locations that have either paved or level smooth trails, amenities such as benches and restrooms.
    2. First step, complete the location information, using the Birdability Organization's map and criteria, for the locations in the "Birding in the Sacramento Region" booklet.
    3. Next, write up a description for five of the surveyed locations, selecting those that best meet the criteria of accessibility, such as Stone Lakes. Paul will then work with the Web Committee to develop a page for the website featuring those accessible locations.
    4. Additionally, the committee will work on outreach using Instagram and Facebook. Trying to reach those who may not consider birding to be something they can participate in.
    5. Lastly, once COVID is not a factor, the committee will host monthly field meetings to help people with disabilities understand that they can bird. Volunteers would be needed for these field meetings.
  - D. Comments and Questions from Board Members
    1. Elliot: The Web Committee is working on a digital map of the booklet. We could mark the sites that have the best access, making them distinct in some way.
    2. Mary will send Paul updated birding location information from the website.
    3. Elliot: Do you have a checklist of things that make a location accessible? Paul: Yes, a PDF of this information is available for volunteers.

#### IV. Officer Reports

##### A. President

1. Via email, board approved \$500 sponsorship for Galt Winter Bird Festival (Nancy 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>) quorum reached December 26, 2020.
2. Bill (as SAS president) signed letter to protect Walker Ridge BLM property in Lake County. The property is being threatened by wind energy development. Awaiting a copy of the letter for our records.
3. Received a thank you letter from Feather River Land Trust for our contribution in September.
4. Received a thank you letter from Central Valley Bird Club for donation to their scholarship fund.
5. Donation received from Tomi Horne of multiple books on Falconry and general bird books. Also donated antique falcon bells. How should these donations be used?
  - a. Antique bells could be donated to Effie Yeaw for display in their museum.
  - b. Books would normally be offered to membership at monthly meetings.
  - c. Please send suggestions for distribution of donation to Bill.
6. Bobelaine
  - a. Steven Hall and Taylor Florence, volunteers, will do the trail mowing moving forward. They will receive keys to the shed.
  - b. Tractor is running again. The problem was with the seat safety switch.
  - c. A temporary fence has been installed to block cars from parking on neighboring property. The neighbor will be installing permanent fencing.
  - d. Question of parking. Should we add an area? If so where? Bill will draw up a plan of what's available and email it to the board. Cable fencing could also be installed. Neighbor has already allowed Bobelaine extra space for parking by installing her fence in a manner that provides turn-around space for cars parking on the north side.
  - e. This year's dividends from the Bobelaine endowment are available if we wish to request them. In 2020 we took the endowment in part to pay for the tree cutting. Send questions or comments to Bill.
  - f. Ken Poerner has had to resign from helping at Bobelaine for health reasons, please send suggestions for how we may honor Ken and his service to Bill. One suggestion is to name the river overlook at Bobelaine, "the Ken Poerner River Overlook."
  - g. Have received the load of gravel and picnic tables promised by the construction company for using the land. The gravel has not been spread.
7. Please send suggestions for recognizing Gesna Clarke's contributions to SAS to Bill.
8. Motion via email for \$169 plus tax to print 1,500 copies of the Bobelaine map. (Jane 1<sup>st</sup>, Mary 2<sup>nd</sup>), quorum reached on-line January 6, 2021.

##### B. Treasurer

1. Dues are already almost at budget and we still have 5 months to go. National dues of \$6,241 were received in January. Not much money has been spent this year due to COVID. Only \$16,000 of budget. We have a Net Income of \$31,000. We have \$92,000 in checking and savings account. What should we do with these funds?
2. The Central Valley Bird Club has not yet cashed the check we sent as donation for their scholarship fund. Bill will follow-up with the sender of the thank you note.
3. For Bobelaine, from 2014 to present, we have received almost \$66,000 (\$20,000 in donations and \$43,000 from National). We have spent \$52,000.

- C. Corresponding Secretary -N/A
- D. Other Officers - None

## V. Old Business

### A. Proposed Revisions to the Bylaws

1. A marked copy of the current bylaws and a revised copy of the by-laws is on the website at <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bylaws>. This webpage will be moved to the About Us folder. The page will be modified to include the ballot by March 18.
2. A notice ran the December Observer informing members of the proposed changes to the by-laws and where to find the copies for review.
3. Voting on the Bylaws begins on March 18. An email will be sent to membership by Jane reminding members to vote and where to find the ballot.
4. Voting will only be available on the website.

### B. SAS Scholarship

1. Diana spoke with Outdoor Afro. They do not currently have group leaders in the Sacramento Area, but would love to partner with SAS in the Bay area. Diana is looking for direction on how much the Board wishes to spend. Could we offer to support one of their group leaders if they extend their service into the Sacramento Area? Not sure how much this would cost or if this is something Outdoor Afro is interested in. Is this something we wish to pursue?
2. Elliot recommended speaking with local colleges, i.e. SAC State or UC Davis, and working within a specific program. Daphne will follow-up.

### C. Addressing Racism / Underwriting Effie Yeaw's Nature in Your Classroom

1. Daphne proposes paying for Effie Yeaw's "Nature in Your Classroom" for elementary schools in underserved communities. Effie Yeaw charges \$200 for a 60- minute presentation to a group of 35. Effie Yeaw sends a representative and animal ambassador to the classroom.
2. Due to COVID restrictions, Effie Yeaw is currently offering an online distance learning option for \$125. It is 30 minutes of interactive content and viewing of animal ambassadors, 5 minutes of students' questions, and a post homework activity. They have several topics available.
3. Daphne proposes working with Ethel Phillips Elementary School where she has a contact as a trial run of the program.
4. Nancy recommends looking at the schools which receive Title 1 funding, as criteria for identifying schools with need.

### D. Diversity Statement

1. National had a question on the annual report, "Does the chapter have an equity, inclusion and diversity statement?" We do not at present have a such a statement. Do we want/need one?
2. Daphne and Bill researched on-line and didn't find many chapters with diversity statements.
3. Consensus, instead of putting a statement out there, let's do things that make a difference.

## VI. New Business

### A. Birdability Committee

1. Motion to add Birdability Committee to the list of Sacramento Audubon Society Committees. (Elliot 1<sup>st</sup>, Diana 2<sup>nd</sup>) approved unanimously.
2. President appoints Paul Miller as the Birdability Committee Chairperson.

- B. Illustrated Bird Book Donations - Samples of the books have not been received. This item is on hold until such time as samples or books are received.
- C. Bird Flight Patterns Concert Video from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra - Bill will follow-up with contact on how video can be distributed and how it will be accessed.
- D. Nominating Committee – Bill, Diana, and Elliott would like to step down from the Board at the end of this year. Diana will head the Nominating Committee. Please send any recommendations to Diana. The new slate of Board Officers needs to be published in the April Observer.
- E. President (Bill) appoints Paul to fill the open seat on the Board, effective immediately. Approved by unanimous consent.

## VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

### A. Membership

- 1. New member asked if we would like to have the SAS Monthly Meetings placed on the SACPeace.org calendar. This is a group to which she is also a member. Consensus we do not want to be on their calendar.

### B. Education

- 1. CDFW will not be holding Nature Bowl this year, instead they will have Family Challenges.
- 2. Still need an Education Chair.

### C. Website

- 1. 130 folks have signed up for Action Alerts, however, at the moment we do not have Action Alerts to send out. Please send any ideas or suggestions for Action Alerts to Mary or Daphne.
- 2. Sacramento Area Birds Checklist page has received 3,800 visits in the last 30 days.
- 3. At our last website committee meeting we discussed checking the website for anything that needed to be updated. One of the items discovered was a variety of wording in the Mission Statement. Consensus is there should be one set of language used across all documents and media. Mary will email out the various wording of the Mission Statements. Board will choose one to use across all platforms via email.
- 4. The Web Committee with the help of Maureen Geiger and various others is updating the information in the Birding in the Sacramento Region booklet for use on the website. Maureen is still in need of folks to assist in checking some of the locations. If you are interested in helping, email Maureen or Mary.

### D. Conservation

- 1. Swainson Hawk land mitigation is on-going.
- 2. Elk Grove proposed hospital - hearings on the EIR will be held in the next two months.
- 3. PHD student at UC Davis, spoke with Elliot about his work on Lights Out Programs in Ohio and also what conservation work SAS is involved in.

### E. Outreach

- 1. Galt Winter Bird Festival is virtual on February 6.

### F. Other Committee Reports - None

### G. Board Member Reports - None

## VIII. Adjournment 8:21 pm