

## **Minutes (Approved)**

### **Sacramento Audubon Society**

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

Date / Time: March 30, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
  - A. Call to Order 6:33 pm
  - B. Roll Call
    1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Bill Bianco, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Elliot Chasin, Harriet Saeck, Heather White
    2. Board Members Absent: Diana Hickson
  - C. Approval of Minutes (February 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments
  - A. Eric Johnson, observing
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President
    1. Donated Falconry Books: Books are still in Bill’s possession. He will hold onto them until regular membership meetings commence.
    2. Sign for Ken Poerner River Overlook: Via Email, motion to have the sign carved for the Ken Poerner River Overlook at an estimate of \$285 (Daphne 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>), quorum reached March 9, 2020. Sign should be completed by the end of March
    3. Bobelaine Shed Door Repair: Via email, motion to have SACS Door & Gate Corp complete the shed door repair at Bobelaine for \$3,600 (Diana 1st, Jane 2nd), quorum reached on March 15, 2020. SACS Door is awaiting parts. They expect to start work the first week of April.
  - B. Treasurer
    1. \$8,160 received from National for Bobelaine.
    2. Dues are above budget and donations are up. Memberships and donations continue to increase even though there are no outreach events.
    3. Net income of \$43,000 – giving us \$104,000 in the bank.
  - C. Corresponding Secretary
    1. The postcard has been updated to reflect board member input. Dimensions of the card are 5.8” x 4.2”. This is the biggest the card can be and still use postcard postage rate.
    2. Additional changes requested.
      - a. Add “Sacramento Audubon is 501C3 non-profit corporation. Our tax id #.....”
      - b. Move photo credit, “Yellow-billed Magpie by Chris Conard,” to the back of card.
  - D. Other Officers: None

## V. Old Business

### A. Bobelaine

1. When clearing debris off the shed roof, volunteers discovered rust. Bill is investigating alternative solutions.
2. Two work days scheduled, March 31 and April 2. Bill has plenty of volunteers at this time.
3. Two ATVs were reported on property, driven to the river overlook, where individuals were seen fishing. We want to encourage people to call CalTIP 1 888 334-CALTIP (888 334-2258), so violators can be caught.

### B. SAS Scholarship

1. UC Davis: Daphne spoke with Alice Fontaine, Assistant Director of Development, College of Agricultural and Environmental Studies, UCD, about scholarship options. The minimum they'll accept is \$5,000 annually with a 5-year commitment. This is more than SAS is willing to commit to at this time.
2. Los Rios Colleges Foundation (American River College, Cosumnes River College, Folsom Lake College, and Sacramento City College): They offer several areas of study that tie in with habitat restoration and management. The Director of Institutional Advancement at the foundation suggested offering scholarships to students who are fulfilling their general requirements at one of the Los Rios Colleges but have declared a major relevant to our mission and plan to transfer to the State or UCs. The scholarship minimum is \$500 with a 3-year commitment. Daphne will continue to investigate this option.
3. Daphne will be speaking with SAC State about the option of designing a scholarship.
4. Race / ethnicity cannot be specified in the requirements for the scholarship. However, income limits can be established.

### C. Effie Yeaw's Nature in the Classroom for Title 1 Schools

1. Effie Yeaw is currently offering virtual and in-person presentations. The in-person presentations are on a case-by-case basis contingent upon the school's COVID policies. Typically, educators begin to contact Effie Yeaw in May/June to reserve dates for the coming school year. Effie Yeaw begins accepting reservations July 1<sup>st</sup> for the following school year.
2. Costs will vary depending on whether it's virtual or in-person, and whether we bundle classes as we did with Ethel Phillips (2 Zooms covered 54 third graders). In-person is \$200 for 35 students for a 60-minute presentation. Virtual is \$125 for 35 students for a 30-minute presentation, plus time for questions after. Schools more than 15 miles from Effie Yeaw will be charged \$1 per additional mile round trip.
3. Motion to allow spending up to \$1000 for the remainder of this school year and \$2000 for next school year, to be used in paying for Effie Yeaw's Nature in the Classroom program at Title 1 schools (Mary 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>), unanimous approval.

### D. Nominating Committee

1. Slate of officers should appear in the May Observer. Voting will be conducted same as last year with an on-line and mail-in ballot in *The Observer*. Voting would be in June.
2. Eric Johnson is a potential new board member. He is new to birding but eager and pleased to be involved.

### E. Chalk It Up Sponsorship

1. Scheduled for Labor Day weekend

2. Bill has been in contact with Christy Jordon and filled out the forms to sponsor two squares. They are still setting things up for this year and she will get back to us with more information.

## VI. New Business

### A. Earth Day Garbage Pick Up

1. A notice has been placed on the Volunteer Page of the Website and will post to the News Blog on the website on March 31.
2. Still waiting on additional information on the event.

### B. Letter of Support for WCB Grant

1. Sending printed version of the letter. When printing the letter, the letterhead is coming out too light. Elliot will investigate and send PDF to Mary.
2. Letter needs to be sent out by April 6.

## VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

### A. Membership (Jane)

1. Membership count is about 650 members
2. Nearly half of all members are now receiving the electronic version of *The Observer*.
3. The Big Day of Giving is May 6. It is in the March Observer and will also be in the April Observer. Will send something to Cliff to have it put on Facebook and will try to get on the other social media sites as well.

### B. Education (Bill)

1. No one has volunteered for the chair position.
2. Received requests for a couple of talks.
3. Forwarded information from Education Committee members to Mary for the Kids' Corner blog.

### C. Website (Mary)

1. 185 people have signed up to receive Action Alerts. Currently there is nothing to send.
2. The number of unique visitors in March was up 37% compared to February. The Bobelaine page also had twice the number of visits in March as in February. The Sacramento Area Birds Checklist page continues to be the most popular page.
3. Future projects are being directed in part by the analytics we receive from SquareSpace. The Sacramento Area Birds of Note page continues to get a lot of hits but may not be keeping people on the website, so we will be looking at that page. Other potential projects include making the Bobelaine Field Guide an interactive web-based document and incorporating field trips, once they begin again.

### D. Conservation (Elliot)

1. Proposed Elk Grove Hospital: There was potential for this to become an issue again, however, it hasn't happened. The school may be considering a different site for the Hospital.

### E. Outreach (Bill)

1. Lodi Crane festival still pending
2. Walk On the Wildside is usually in May, however, they have not reached out yet.

F. Accessibility

1. Currently 6 volunteers are working on evaluating the sites from Birding in the Sacramento Area. These will be written up or checked off as not accessible. Each of the volunteers is using the Birdability.org accessibility checklist in evaluating locations and recording the information in the Birdability.org map.
2. Motion to donate \$500 to Birdability.org in appreciation for their tools that the Accessibility Committee is using and the support they have provided (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Elliot 2<sup>nd</sup>), unanimously approved.

G. Properties Committee

1. Bill will be meeting with Becky to review the function statement for the Properties Committee. Once they have revised the statement it should be added to the Policies and Procedures.
2. The Franchise Board has cancelled us, due to how little we pay each year in sales tax. If anything is purchased for resale, the sales tax needs to be paid at the time of purchase.

H. Other Committee Reports

1. Monthly Speaker Presentation
  - a. Attendance at the On-line Monthly Speaker Presentations is very low. March's meeting had only 20 people including the speaker, Bill, and Mary. February's meeting had only 17 in attendance including the speaker. For April's speaker, there are only 15 people signed up. In general, only about half those who register attend the meeting.
  - b. It is too soon to consider doing the meetings in person. Instead, look for additional ways to promote the speakers. Meetings are posted on Facebook and Instagram. Can we cross promote with CVBs? Can we find other Facebook Groups to post in?
  - c. Once we are able to offer in-person meetings, should consider also making them available on-line. Members have requested the continued availability of on-line meetings. Looking for suggestions for someone who can help with the technology side of this.

I. Board Member Reports: None

VIII. Adjournment 8:07 pm