

## **Approved Minutes**

### **Sacramento Audubon Society**

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

Date / Time: October 27, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
  - A. Call to Order: 6:34 pm
  - B. Roll Call
    1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Heather White, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Elliot Chasin, Nancy Gronert, Bill Bianco, Diana Hickson
    2. Board Members Absent: Gesna Clarke
  - C. Approval of Minutes (September 2020) – Approved unanimously
- II. Guests / Public Comments: N/A
- III. Presentation: N/A
- IV. Officer Reports
  - A. President
    1. The Public Accountability for Our Capitol group is requesting Sacramento Audubon's support in advocating against the Capitol Annex Project. Bill will send the email to board members for their review.
    2. Bobelaine: Construction should be completed in late November. All signs on the property and notices on the website have been updated.
  - B. Treasurer
    1. Membership revenue is up from this time last year. Additionally, we are not spending what we normally would be due to COVID-19.
    2. Insurance
      - a. Changing from multiple bills each year to one bill per year. Currently, we have paid through July 2021. Our yearly bill is \$6,000.
      - b. Sacramento Audubon current coverage includes liability insurance, director's and officer's insurance, group and accident insurance, and employment insurance.
      - c. Harriet inquired if a trip leader is not a member, are they covered? According to our insurance provider, it does not make any difference. They are covered as a "volunteer."
  - C. Corresponding Secretary
    1. Recommending the use Thank You postcards as opposed to Thank You letters.
      - a. Amount of time spent on Thank You letters seems out of proportion to the donation amount and expectation of the donors.
      - b. Heather presented two sample post cards. The first has a full picture on front and address and thank you on back. The other has a half picture and thank you on front, address on the back. All of the text would be preprinted except for the

amount and address. Harriet recommended including the tax ID and language indicating we are a 501c.

- c. Concerns expressed from Board Members about including a donation amount on postcards where anyone could see the amount. Questions raised as to whether the amount needs to be included in the thank you and what this would mean for those who retain the letter for tax purposes.
  - d. Heather will research the tax question and we will revisit at the November Board Meeting.
- D. Other Officers: N/A

## V. Old Business

### A. Review of Bylaws

1. Proposal: Article II, Section 1: Remove the Past President from list of board members. Changing the sentence,  
*The Board shall include: (a) five elected Officers, (b) the immediate past president, (c) and five (5) elected Directors.*  
to read  
*The Board shall include: (a) five elected Officers, (b) and six (6) elected Directors.*
2. The board recommends clarifying in the policies and procedures the role of the past president as an advisory non-voting position with no set term limit. If a past president wishes to remain as a voting member of the Board, they may rejoin as one of the elected Directors.

### B. Cat Policy

1. Recommended changes
  - a. Remove the section on toxoplasma gondii and change it to a link on the side.
  - b. Add a link for the risk posed by dogs off leash.
2. Daphne will make recommended changes and board will vote on updated policy via email prior to November Board Meeting.
3. Looking for pictures of Sacramento Audubon Board Members' cats for the cat policy webpage.

## VI. New Business

### A. Bufferlands Calendar Sponsorship

1. Motion to sponsor at \$500. (Diana, Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>) passed unanimously.
2. Previous calendars have included a list of Outreach Events. Bill will put together a list of virtual events to be included on the calendar.

### B. Motion to purchase 5 copies of *Life Under the Fast Lane* and distribute them to the City of Sacramento at a cost of \$150 plus tax. (Elliot, Diana 2<sup>nd</sup>), passed unanimously.

1. Ask Dan Airola to distribute the books to the appropriate people he has identified.
2. Include a sticker in the front of each book, "Donated by the Sacramento Audubon Society." Elliot will provide the sticker.

## VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

### A. Membership (Jane)

1. Motion to register for the 2021 Big Day of Giving (Diana, Harriet 2<sup>nd</sup>), passed unanimously.
2. This month was a slow month for membership renewals, only 15 members. Other months we have many more. We are maintaining our membership levels with over 600 current members.

### B. Education (Gesna)

### C. Website (Mary) – See attached report

### D. Conservation (Elliot)

- a. After talking with Habitat 2020, they recommend waiting until we know more before expending additional effort to involve ourselves in the Elk Grove CNU Hospital project.

### E. Other Board / Committee Reports

#### 1. CBCs Canceled?

- a. A member contacted Elliot with concerns over the CBC being cancelled as was published in the October *Observer*.
  - b. On the SAS website it says most compliers will be deciding on Nov. 15 or later whether they will be holding their CBCs. It also states that the Woodford count is canceled this year due to COVID.
  - c. The Education Committee decide to publish the information that counts were cancelled to reduce the number of people asking to participate. If CBCs happen, they will be done with fewer people, contact directly by the compliers.
  - d. In the November *Observer*, a longer article will be published suggesting that CBCs, if they happen, will look a lot different this year. It will also recommend how individuals can participate on their own.
2. Monthly Speaker Presentation – Board members will automatically receive a Webex invitation to the Monthly Speaker Presentation.

## VIII. Adjournment 8:09

## Website Committee Board Report – October 27, 2020

*The next website committee meeting is November 12, at 6:30*

### **Notable Changes to the Website in October**

#### Pictures for the Sacramento Area Birds Checklist & Gallery

After reaching out to the photographers that had previously contributed to the website, we received images for 8 or the 9 birds for which we were missing photos. The only bird we do not have a picture of is the Black Rail. We will be discussing ideas for obtaining a black rail photo at the next website committee meeting.

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/sacramento-birds-checklist>

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/gallery-of-birds>

#### Lights Out

An informational page on the importance of turning lights out during peak migration has been added to the website. <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/lights-out>

### **Action Alerts**

79 people have signed up for Action Alerts as of October 26. In October we sent out two Action Alerts. The first on Oct. 7 was about the proposed CNU hospital next to Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge. The information on from this Action Alert was also printed in the November edition of *The Observer*. The second on Oct. 22 explained the Davis City Council plan to convert the former Davis WTP ponds into a solar array.

### **Pages and Projects in the Works**

#### Birding Locations

An interactive map is in the works. The 4th edition of *Birding in the Sacramento Region*, published in 2008 is currently available on the website.

#### Reference Guides and More

Expanding the current Reference Guides page to include additional book and other media recommendations.

#### On-line Store

This project continues to be on-hold. The request for volunteers to set-up and manage the on-line store, placed in the November *Observer* has at this point has yielded no results.