

Minutes [Approved]

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: September 29, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order: 6:39 pm
 - B. Roll Call
 1. Officers Present: Bill Bianco, Daphne Reimer, Heather White, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Elliot Chasin, Nancy Gronert,
 2. Officers Absent: Gesna Clarke, Diana Hickson, Harriet Saeck,
 - C. Approval of Minutes (August 2020) – Approved unanimously
- II. Guests / Public Comments: N/A
- III. Presentation: N/A
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Christmas Bird Count (CBC)
 - a. National Audubon has left the decision of holding CBC counts up to each region's compiler in light of the every changing COVID threat.
 - b. Chris Conard and Dan Williams will wait until after November 15 to decide on whether or not to do their counts.
 - c. There will be no Woodford Count this year.
 - d. Bill will send in a notice for The Observer. Mary will update the website.
 2. Board Election by mail and on-line
 - a. 73 "yes" votes were submitted for the slate of Board Officers and Directors. 69 on-line and 4 mail in ballots. No "no" votes were submitted.
 - b. Roster of Sacramento Audubon Society Elected Officers and Directors for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year
 - President: Bill Bianco
 - Vice-President: Daphne Reimer
 - Treasurer: Harriet Saeck
 - Corresponding Secretary: Heather White
 - Recording Secretary: Mary Forrestal
 - Director: Diana Hickson
 - Director: Gesna Clarke
 - Director: Jane Van Kessel
 - Director: Elliot Chasin
 - Director: Nancy Gronert
 3. Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary

- a. The construction trucks are having trouble making the turn off of the levee and getting through the gate. Proposed going through the picnic area and taking out several fence posts and the picnic tables. As compensation they will supply three metal picnic tables.
 - b. Construction will continue past the original September 23 date. New completion date is October 23, 2020. Website and social media sites have been updated.
 4. Life Under the Fast Lane by Dan Airola: Sacramento Audubon has received two complimentary copies of Dan's book. Can be used for raffles or prizes at future events.
 5. Grant Request for Mountain Lion Survey – the request is not in-line with our mission, at this time SAS will not be making a donation.
 - B. Treasurer: Harriet submitted numbers to be reviewed in her absence. With the limited sponsorship requests and no outreach events, we continue to spend less than budgeted.
 - C. Corresponding Secretary
 1. Heather proposed creating an online central location where the most up-to-date version of board documents (bylaws, policies and procedures) can be kept. Mary and Heather will work to develop a board members document page on the website. This page will be password protected with a link from the Organization page.
 2. Policies and Procedures updated with information from Field Activities Chair.
 3. Letter received from a prison inmate in Vacaville, requesting information on feeding birds. Bill will respond by sending several pamphlets on birds and feeding birds.
 - D. Other Officers: N/A
- V. Old Business
- A. Review of Bylaws
 1. Article I Section 3 Remove First sentence change second to "Changes in annual dues shall be decided by the Board with notice to the members."
 2. Article I Section 6 Change general to SAS memberships (whether or not they pay dues)
 3. Article I Section 5 Should General Membership be changed to something else. Revisit when full board present
 4. Article III Section 3 Vice-president will be the interim president until position is voted upon by membership.
 5. Article III Section 5 – change in policies and procedures not by-laws "Approved minutes shall be posted to the website and sent to the president and to board members if requested"
 6. Article V Section 2 eliminate "from SAS membership"
 7. What is the role of the past president? Needs to be reviewed.
 8. Article 1 Section 8– Add language to allow for voting by mail or electronically.
 9. Article VI – Does something need to be added about Credit Card, tabled for future meeting
 10. Decided to continue bylaws review at October board meeting.

- B. Cat Policy: A policy written by Daphne and Elliot will be ready for the October Board Meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Chalk It Up

1. Chalk It Up! is a music and art festival occurring annually over Labor Day Weekend. Usually, the chalk art encircles Fremont Park. This year it is spread out to allow for greater social distancing. Daphne proposed sponsoring a square or two at next year's festival.
2. Sponsorship is \$200 per square. Sponsorship is not due until February.
3. Revisit at January Board meeting.

B. Sacramento Audubon YouTube Channel

1. In order to upload the recorded speaker presentations to the SAS website, they must first be uploaded onto a video service, such as YouTube, Vimeo, Animoto, Wistia. YouTube is the only free service and the most widely used by other regional Audubon Societies.
2. Website Committee is approved to establish Sacramento Audubon YouTube channel for above stated purpose.

C. Sponsorship Request – Effie Yeaw Nature Center Owl-O-Ween.

1. Social Distanced Halloween Program. For a fee, families will walk through the reserve collecting treats from stations.
2. Motion to sponsor at \$500. (Nancy, Daphne 2nd), passed unanimously.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

A. Membership (Jane)

1. Sending paper copies of *The Observer* to New National Audubon Members
 - a. Should we continue to send a paper copy of *The Observer* to those new National Members that do not provide National with an email address? Currently we send a letter, application, and copy of *The Observer* to all new National members in our area. National provides us with this information.
 - b. New Members to SAS now automatically receive the electronic Observer.
 - c. Moving forward, send only the letter and SAS application to those that have not supplied their email.
2. Reached out to 50 of the long-time local National Audubon Members that are not Sacramento Audubon members with a letter. 2 responded and joined SAS. Will proceed, with Board approval, to reach out to long-time National members about joining SAS.
3. Jane will send out an updated roster of Board and Committee members.

B. Education (Gesna)

C. Website (Mary)

1. Two new pages on the website: Checklist of Sacramento Birds and the Gallery of Birds. Both link to photos of over 240 bird species. Asking for help reviewing pages

as it was a lot of repetitive typing. Still need pictures for nine species of birds on the checklist. Will include a request for pictures in the November *Observer*.

2. Online store on-hold.
 - a. Creating the store involves decisions about a lot of small details. It is not as simple as uploading a picture and connecting to on-demand vendor. After the store is created there will be continuing customer and logistical issues to manage.
 - b. Alternatively, we could offer a free t-shirt when you join at a certain level or some such. Heather has submitted really cute t-shirt designs.
 - c. Put a notice in *The Observer* that we are looking for a volunteer to setup and manage an online store.
 3. Lights Out is a National Audubon program. Do we wish to pursue being a part of the National program or just create an informational page on the benefits of turning out lights for birds?
 - a. The program seems more popular in the Eastern and Midwestern United States.
 - b. National Audubon has not gotten back to Jane with more information about how to be a part of National's program.
 - c. Board Recommendation: Put the informational page on the website and continue to research National's program and the impact on birds in our area.
- D. Conservation (Elliot)
1. California Northstate University (CNU) is proposing to build a hospital with helicopter pad in Elk Grove next to Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge
 - a. Elliot with the help of Bill and Daphne wrote a letter as requested by Habit 2020 responding to the Environmental Impact Report for CNU's proposed Hospital. It was submitted to the Elk Grove City Council on Friday, September 25.
 - b. Board Recommendation: Post the letter on the SAS website with an introduction as a News Item. This can become an Action Alert as well.
- E. Other Board / Committee Reports
1. Daphne suggested approaching SAC State about a student who might be interested in working on our social media presence. Board chose not to pursue at this time.

VIII. Adjournment 8:39