

**SAS Board Minutes
September 27, 2016
2110 State St.**

Present: Ray Temple, Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Judy Brunkal, Doug Spencer, Maureen Leong-Kee, Lowell Spring, Carolyn Homan, Laurie Buswell, administrator

CALL TO ORDER: 6:05 p.m.

PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES: Lowell moved to OK the minutes of the August meeting, and Doug seconded, with one correction: Dave Marshall (not Doug) under the Nature Center update/naming the outdoor classroom at Peregrine marsh action item. Motion carried.

Review of Action Items:

- 1) **Researching technicalities of “raffles”/door prize drawings, Ray** – Done. Ray said SAS appears to be in no jeopardy because the fundraising threshold for risk is much higher than anything we would approach.
- 2) **Sending Nature Center timeline to Board, Ray** – Done. Ray distributed via email and passed out copies at the meeting.
- 3) **Discuss with Graham potential policy issues around nest boxes at Nature Center, Ray** – Done. Refuge in general relies on natural feeding sources but there might be a place for some blue bird boxes in future. Once a facility is in place SAS can prepare a proposal. Lowell said bird feeders at the Nature Center building could be an educational feature and Doug noted that Finley has them, so there is precedent.
- 4) **Aug. 31 site visit at Ankeny re: habitat restoration that's under way** – Done.
- 5) **Discussion with friends of Dave Marshall about memorializing him in some way at Nature Center, Ray** – Done. He said Claire Puchy and Bob Fields, as well as another good friend of Dave's, Tom McAlister, are anxious for some decision because Dave's widow is 91. Ray said the item is on the agenda of tomorrow's meeting with FWS folks to scope out the upcoming public meeting re: the Nature Center project. As a side note, Ray said he's interested in talking with Capi Lynn of the Statesman Journal about doing a piece on the history of the Nature Center.
- 6) **Doug to share Friends of the Refuge policy re: board attendance and other new board member information with the Board** – Done.

NATURE CENTER UPDATE

DMT call, Doug – The group talked about the November public meeting, which is the subject of tomorrow's meeting with FWS folks. Doug said this is technically an FWS meeting because of NEPA so the process is theirs. He shared insights about possible formats: Formal, with podium, stenographer, etc. Staff take questions and there is follow up later through the NEPA document. Informal, with stations set up so people can walk around and get information. Cards are available to fill out with questions and comments about the environmental assessment, which can be left there or mailed in by a pre-set deadline. A combination, with a PowerPoint, speakers and then information stations. The NEPA process is about full disclosure, open access to comment and FWS is obligated to record all comments received, even those by phone, Doug said. He said that those who phone in are urged to follow up in writing so that items are not overlooked.

The board discussed ways to get the word out about the meeting, to boost attendance –Facebook, the website, the Kestrel (there is an article in the October issue), Birder's Nite and Chapter meetings and emailing everyone we have on our list. Doug said the Friends newsletter is going out this week and can still include a short notice of the meeting, which will be at 6 p.m. November 3 at Pringle Community Hall. **Action item: Ray to get Kestrel information on the meeting to Doug for use in the Friends' notice.**

The Sept. 28 meeting will hash out an initial approach. **Action item: Ray to share notes from that meeting with the Board.**

Overview of MOA status, Michael – We're still waiting for results of the FWS solicitor's review. The word is that FWS is pretty satisfied, but that is not official. Audubon's attorney, Gordon Hanna, is waiting for the FWS input.

Michael has a call in to the firm to discuss cost of the MOA review and also the firm's design/build contractor selection experience, as a source of advice to SAS as we move forward.

Education/Interpretive Committee action/Alchemy of Design report, Lowell – He said the committee has met a couple of times and Samantha has reorganized the Alchemy report so that it is more intelligible. He said the report has little on Phase I of the center and focuses more on Phases II and III. He is not impressed, overall, with the Alchemy effort, which seemed to be focused from the outset on exhibits for Phase IV. But some ideas are useful and it isn't a binding document. Lowell has a list of questions that would translate to exhibits that could cycle through the building over time.

Doug said that FWS has a Visitor Service Enhancement Fund with up to \$90,000 available in 2018. No guarantees, but SAS could possibly get some funds for furnishings, exhibits, etc.

Ray said that he and Graham will meet in October with Monique Chase, the FWS engineer assigned to the Nature Center project. They will review the documents leading to the design/build contractor selection and write the scope of work. He said an email was sent to Board summarizing the DMT call and that the correct project time line is dated Aug. 26 and can be shared with the proviso that it is tentative.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Tim

He emailed account information prior to the meeting. He noted a couple of corrections – the correct CLEAR grant number is \$975 and the correct Nature Reserve number if \$424.16.

Because the bank account was running low, he transferred \$5,000 from the unrestricted operating income account. End of August income lagged expenses by \$2,598. He said next month's reports will show where the shortage was. We're at the end of the SAS fiscal year. Next month he will provide the year-end report and begin building the budget for 2016-17.

Judy asked if the operating income account makes enough interest to cover the withdrawal. Tim said it does make interest, but he's not sure it's enough to cover that amount. He'll know next month.

Fundraising – 1) Spirit Mountain grant workshop: Tim and Carolyn attended. He said the fund has up to \$100,000 available annually. Projects need to align with Spirit Mountain's grant priorities, which include environmental protection. Board diversity is a major issue for the fund but the advice was to recruit first for expertise and then diversity. Jim Hill was mentioned as a possible board prospect for SAS. Tim also said measurable objectives are imperative for any project.

2) New opportunities – He has gotten SAS into the rotation at Life Source for their bag token program (for those who bring in their own shopping bags, the bag discount can be donated to a charity). He also has SAS set up under the AmazonSMILE program, through which those who order goods via AmazonSMILE.com, and designate SAS as their charity of choice, will see ½ of 1% of the sale donated to SAS. He plans now to work on getting SAS as a choice under the Community Rewards program at Fred Meyer.

3) Other items: a) He's learned of a nonprofit that raised \$10,000 selling water at a booth at the State Fair. He will check into this possibility, the cost, etc.

b) SAS member Ted Gatti (sp??) has arranged for the authors of Rising Waters (poetry and water colors combination) to come to Salem for an appearance at Bush Barn Oct. 11. All proceeds from book sales at the event go to SAS.

c) Birds and Wine – This event was rescheduled for Sunday, Nov. 13 at Left Coast Cellars.

d) Appeals – There is an item in the October Kestrel thanking donors to the summer appeal, and including information on sustaining memberships. The fall appeal will go out this week.

DECISION TOPICS

Stephanie Hazen election notice in the Kestrel, Ray – She is running for an at-large position on the Marion SWCD Board and has asked to place an item in the Kestrel. In discussion, Michael said that while he supports her candidacy, he does have some concerns about endorsement precedent. He felt an obligation to look into other candidates and found that the other at-large candidate is Scott Walker, an SAS member who worked on the Nature Center site selection and strategic plan processes. Ray agreed that precedent is the key issue. He made it clear that he would recuse himself from any vote on the issue, since Stephanie is his wife, but that he had no problem with passing along the Board's decision.

The Board agreed that conservation issues are one thing, in terms of SAS "political" support, but individual candidates are a different issue and that it could not support printing individual candidate profiles in the Kestrel.

INFORMATION TOPICS

Covering for Ray, post-surgery in October – Since he won't be able to type with his right hand for some time, he said he would try to review and distribute his email and as a backup, route them to SAS for Laurie to distribute.

Urban Bird Treaty Program, Ray – Salem is working on a migratory bird policy and Ray wants to talk with mayor-elect Chuck Bennett about this and the possibility of grant funds available to cities that offer education, etc., on conservation through the FWS's Urban Bird Treaty program. Ray thinks Salem might be a reasonable candidate with a Migratory Bird Program, the Minto Brown plan and other conservation-related efforts. **Action item: Ray will follow up.**

Board binders – Laurie said she has binders for Doug and Maureen and updated inserts for other Board members.

Next meeting – The October meeting will be at the new SAS office, 338 Hawthorn Ave. NE.

Meeting announcements – Tim said the Oregon Birding Association calendar now lists all of the Salem Audubon meetings and activities.

Oregon Audubon conservation meeting – This meeting will be Nov. 11-12 in Corvallis. Ray and Tim will attend.

Capitol Auto Group kiosk sign – Michael is working on an informational sign for the lake on the Capitol Auto property. They are paying for it. Anyone with content suggestions is urged to email him.

Next meeting: 6 p.m. Oct. 25 at new office, 338 Hawthorne Ave. NE (Marion SWCD building) **Adjourn:** 7:50 p.m.