

SAS Board Minutes
April 25, 2017
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE

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

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Previous meeting's minutes

Carolyn asked for corrections to the March minutes and a motion to approve. Lowell said that Tim had noted the correct spelling for Charlotte Hottman's name. And Ray offered the correct spelling of Mark Wigg's name. Tim moved approval of the minutes, as corrected, and Lowell seconded. Motion was approved.

Review of action items:

- 1) Ray has drafted an invitation to neighbors of Ankeny Refuge to attend the May Chapter meeting presentation on Nature Center plans. Laurie has a list of addresses from Graham. An announcement will run in the Friends newsletter, per Doug, and invitations and emails are going out. Doug, Graham and Ray are meeting Wednesday on the program's slide show.
- 2) **Re: following up on legality of email decisions by the Board, Ray has this on his to-do list.**
- 3) Director's and Officers coverage, will be discussed later.
- 4) A checkout list for the storage unit. Laurie has created it and it is in the office for use by those getting the key to the unit.
- 5) Laurie to research expiring Board member terms – Done, for discussion item later in the agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Tim

Financials – He projects a year-end pretty much in line with the budget. There's about a \$10,000 shortfall in membership right now, but we will gain a bit on that and expenses are expected to lag budget, so the ending figures should be pretty closely aligned. He has taken \$6,545 from savings but that was done to avoid fees and maintain a new, bank-imposed higher minimum balance.

He projects \$1,250 in net income from the Birds and Wine event May 7, which is sold out.

Ray had a question re: CLEAR grants – \$975 for Education programs and \$790 remaining for meeting expenses. Laurie said we are paid through May for meetings and have \$790 for use in the fall.

Tim asked about the \$509 remaining from the goat project, which is restricted for use at the Reserve. Ray agreed that those funds should be spent.

Tim shared a list of fundraising highlights. He informed the Board that we will not pursue a Salem Foundation grant for the wood shop because the strategy was weak. But other ideas have arisen, including Ray's desire to purchase a safe table saw for the shop. However, it's an expensive purchase and it will depend on the SAS bird box program. **Action item: It was agreed the Board needs a general discussion of the bird boxes and continued production.**

OCF endowment seminar – Tim attended a recent Oregon Community Foundation presentation and would like to arrange a seminar for members in the fall.

Egret intarsia piece raffle – Proceeds are \$236 so far. This piece will be raffled at the May Chapter meeting. Tim said it's possible Bob Karau may do another piece for us at some point. There's also been an offer to donate a snowy owl print for another raffle.

Bottle drop program – Proceeds = \$30.95 so far.

AmazonSmile – \$18.89 in proceeds so far. He will keep pushing this in the Kestrel.

Birdathon – This is budgeted to bring in \$4,000. Three corporate sponsors will be approached. There will be a contest to guess the number of bird species seen at the May 29 Ankeny walk, with graduated levels of pledges equating to differing prizes to those guessing the correct number.

Michael said he has books that were in the old office that could be put up for sale. Tim said he would be happy to put them out at meetings with a “pay us what they are worth to you” approach. Leftovers can be taken to the Library. Lowell also said he has some bird guides – particularly those from foreign countries – that could be donated. **Action item: Michael will take the lead on this.**

Memberships – We are at 201. Tim has a list of members lost in the last two years and is going to email them. He said sustaining memberships are growing slowly and now total 9.

Audio system – Tim described a \$130 audio system that Mike Unger bought online that works well and suggested SAS get one for use at Birder's Nite, where frequent problems have cropped up with the church's system. Ray said the purchase seems sensible.

Insurance –

*Volunteer coverage – Tim has read through the policy. SAS has to fill out part of any claim form and there's information about an incident that has to be captured. He will advise Chet, Lee and trip leaders and let them look at it, too. It's a secondary policy to an individual's coverage. A May Kestrel article was submitted.

*Directors and Officers – Tim said the D&O policy has been renewed. His insurance agent said an individual's umbrella policy would not cover any D&O liability situations. Ray noted that to attract new Board members, we need to be able to say they will be covered.

Proposed use of OCF Education investment proceeds for Traveling Education Program field trips – Tim said there is \$7,357 in interest from the OCF account that could be used to take children on field trips. He sees it as a “kick start” on the Nature Center. Grants are possible once the Center is up and running but we would use our own money to try out the idea and show success before seeking grants.

Issues discussed: The best time for trips – Lowell said after school or even weekends might be best. What about transportation? What's the cost of a school bus and driver? Who would conduct the trips and nature walks? Can we sell the idea? What age group would be best to target? Judy suggested older children, maybe 6th grade, because they get more out of the activities than younger age groups.

Ray said we need to do some homework. It was suggested working with the Outdoor School coordinator and/or Lauri Aguirre. Tim said we need to find out if there is a demand for this and how it fits in with school goals and needs. **Action items: 1) Laurie will check on the cost of a bus and driver. 2) Lowell will contact Laurie Aguirre.**

Nature Center update

DMT call – Michael said the key points from this week's DMT call were 1) the issue of when funding from the refuge roads program might be available and the effect of that on any project starting date and 2) selection of a Design/Build contractor and the issue of local vs. region-wide.

After discussion, it was decided SAS should gather local contractor names as well as some from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional list, get proposals and rate those on merit.

Information topics

May Chapter meeting – Before discussion of which Board member terms needed to be renewed by membership at the May meeting, Judy submitted a letter of resignation, since she will be gone to Alaska for four months. The board agreed to allow her to drop off the Board for the four months and then revisit her membership in October. We are happy to have her back if her position has not been filled.

Ray said that he will serve two more years and then will drop off the Board as of May 2019 to pursue other interests.

Board members to be voted on at the May meeting are Doug, Judy and Lowell.

Maya Kaup's gray squirrel project – Ray outlined this Willamette student's project dealing with crossbreeding between Eastern and Western gray squirrels.

Oregon Audubon's spring chapter meeting in Newport – Ray said some information had been shared via email and a report is to come.

Birding trip to Heritage Seedlings – Ray reported on his and Stephanie's trip to Heritage on Saturday, which drew about 20 people, including some Scouts and other young people. Despite rains, blue birds were out and it was a success.

Conservation project recap – Ray said these projects represent opportunities to do some worthwhile conservation work and make some connections with other organizations. Tim recapped some surveys SAS has been involved in: 1) Surveys are being done again this year at Nature Conservancy's Nobel Oaks property in Yamhill County. 2) Surveys continue at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Hayden Island property. 3) A new survey recently was conducted for Atlas Vineyard Management, which sought SAS help before preparing more soil for a new planting. 4) Patricia Farrell at City of Salem would like a Minto Conservation Area baseline survey before the new pedestrian bridge opens for good in the fall.

Ray outlined an opportunity for involvement with the Grand Ronde tribes through trips to see new mitigation properties the tribes have purchased in the North Santiam area. He said it's an opportunity to see some interesting habitats and strengthen the SAS relationship to the tribes. The tribes are interested in wildlife management, access to culturally important plants and perhaps culturally important animals.

Action item: Ray and Tim will work on getting some dates to visit these properties.

Next meeting – 6 p.m. May 23 at 338 Hawthorne.

Adjournment – 8:05 p.m.