

SAS Board Minutes
Aug. 22, 2017
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE

Present: Ray Temple, Tim Johnson, Lowell Spring, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Doug Spencer, Laurie Buswell, administrator **Guest:** Jim Scheppke **Absent:** Maureen Leong-Kee

Call to Order: Ray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Guest presentation, Jim Scheppke – Ray introduced Jim, co-chair of the “Renew Our Library” campaign, an effort to pass an \$18.6 million bond measure to renovate the Salem Public Library/ Loucks Auditorium/ parking garage to make them earthquake safe. The Library was finished in 1972, Loucks in 1990 and neither has any seismic reinforcement. He said half of the bond would be used for seismic improvements and the rest for repairs and replacements (windows, electrical, roof, etc.) The changes should extend the life of the building for 30 years. By comparison, rebuilding the complex would cost about \$51 million.

He sought support from SAS via a Voter's Pamphlet statement, citing Audubon as a long-time partner and user of Loucks for meetings. Others in support so far include the entire Salem City Council, Camerata Musicata, League of Women Voters, the Genealogical Society and more. The deadline for the Voter's Pamphlet is Sept. 11.

He shared a draft statement and said the \$400 submission fee would be paid by the library campaign. He said there is not issue with a 501(c)(3) nonprofit endorsing a measure (this is a Salem city measure). Problems come in endorsing a candidate. Asked about opposition, he said there always are those who oppose more taxes. He said the average Salem home owner would pay \$19 more a year and 80% of taxpayers would pay less than \$25/year.

After discussion, Michael moved that SAS endorse the proposed renovation of Salem Library and make a statement for the Voter's Pamphlet. Lowell seconded. The measure passed.

Action Item: In Ray's absence, Tim will refine the suggested Voter's Pamphlet statement and respond to Jim with the approved wording.

Previous meeting's minutes

Carolyn asked for corrections to the July minutes and a motion to approve. Tim moved to accept the minutes as submitted and Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Review of action items:

- 1) **Re: a nest box meeting** – Ray has not had time to schedule; item carries over.
- 2) **Lowell to contact Laurie Aguirre** – He has not talked with her, but has been working with Monica McQueen, coordinator for a home-school group in Dallas with 195 clients, to arrange a field trip. This group has funding to cover expenses. He's setting up a series of 6 nature programs to begin in November, including a trip through Baskett Slough and to the Coast, including Salmon River Fish Hatchery. On Friday, he did a two- to three-hour presentation for Salem-Keizer Education Foundation as part of their summer camp program. He said it would be worthwhile to meet with SKEF about what SAS can do for them. Ray agreed it would be good to invite SKEF to a meeting to talk about their programs and how SAS might help.
- 3) **Re: trips to see North Santiam area mitigation properties** – Ray coordinating September or October dates with Tim.
- 4) **Re: Maureen to expand on an article she has written, send it to Ray to see if it's what he is looking for.** – He has not seen it but a September Kestrel article will address volunteers.
- 5) **Re: Legal review of MOA:** This is done. More details about the MOA will be known next week.

- 6) **Re: Chairs/tables for Ankeny open house** – Carolyn emailed Samantha and learned that chairs were a need. SAS has 10 chairs at the storage unit that can be provided.
- 7) **Re:Laurie to find source of a wing span poster** – Samantha loaned one for use at the recent Englewood EcoFest event and it was very popular. **Still need to source one for SAS purchase.**
- 8) **Tim to provide contact for Scout troop to tend nest boxes at Willamette Mission park** – Done. Tim said Scouts had put up new wood duck boxes. Michael said he had recently talked with Pam Wood, who historically has tended nest boxes at the park. At one point, she had requested relief but she says she's now fine with continuing to handle this chore.

Treasurer's Report – Tim

Tim had emailed a summary and shared items from the detailed spreadsheet. He said the year's appeals are doing well overall, including the Summer Appeal. SAS should finish the year ahead of budget, in part because of cutting expenses. Two more appeals are planned this calendar year. Birdathon revenue continues to drop and needs a new approach. Some ideas tossed out: Have a Big Sit? Focus on a group like the Malheur field trip for a “team” fundraising effort?

Revenue from the bottle refund project is rising. The last check was \$180 and Tim has distributed about 100 bags. The Amazon Smile program has produced limited revenue – just \$17 or so in the last check. He will evaluate this at the end of the year.

He said our investment adviser would like to attend a meeting to review the investment strategy. **Action item: Ray asked Tim to make arrangements for the adviser to attend the September meeting.**

Policy proposal – Tim proposed amending the personnel policy to allow pay for accrued leave. Current policy allows no payment for any accrued leave and no leave can be carried over at year-end. He proposed rewording this so that there is a rolling amount, but an employee still couldn't accrue more than 1 year's leave. **Action item: After discussion, Tim agree to rewrite the entire section and bring it to the next meeting for further discussion and consideration.**

Nature Center update – Doug and Michael

Doug spoke with Nathan Caldwell, head of Refuge Road programs nationally, who was volunteering at Finley during the Eclipse. Road proposal revisions are due this week from all managers for 2018 and he said the Nature Center proposal is still a go at this point.

Doug said he assumes a promised Nature Center graphic (from Matt?) will be ready for the Ankeny event, and added that we really need this element for future displays.

Discussion topics:

- 1) **Using Cornell's new Trail Tracker** – Tim said we could put this element on our website as a way to track birds seen in the Willamette Valley. But he said we also could develop it for the Nature Center to track birds at Ankeny. It's interactive and uses Ebird. He has emailed details to the Board.
- 2) **Purchase of a high-quality projector** – Ray said he and Stephanie have proposed buying a high-quality projector to replace SAS's unit. Eugenia has asked for one for use by Birder's Nite. That committee has recommended an Epson that is \$636 at Best Buy. For a limited time, there also is a \$50 credit if a projector is recycled at the same time. Laurie would manage check-out of the unit, which could be used for Chapter meetings, Mike Unger's birding classes, education classes, etc., as well as Birder's Nite.

Tim suggested getting the newest model for \$200 more, the Epson EX9200 Pro, which has high resolution and represents the latest technology. He made a motion to purchase this model, using the current projector as a trade-in. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Lowell suggested getting a screen, too. **Action item: Ray asked Tim to look into it but just gather information at this time.**

- 3) **River to Ridge event, Sept. 16** – Ray said Maureen is to get volunteers. Ray said a triathlon is planned, as well as an environmental seminar with three speakers. There is no cost for a display. Ray and Stephanie will supply a table and chairs and Tim said they can use his canopy. Ray thinks the event will draw enough people to make it worthwhile.
- 4) **Englewood, Ecofest, River to Ridge: where to participate and where not** – Ecofest had lots of volunteers but no attendees and also cost \$50. Ray said we need to be sure there will be an audience and SAS also needs to create a draw to bring people to its display.

Englewood cost \$35, but that was because SAS planned to sell nest boxes. Laurie took books, hats, etc. to sell and the event generated \$187. There were only 4 or 5 volunteers but the SAS table was busy. There were a lot of attendees.

Ray said we need a continuing conversation about how we choose events. SAS needs to build its email list to solicit volunteers and then be wise in how we use them.

- 5) **The Ankeny Open House** – Doug said coordination is needed between the Audubon groups (Portland, Corvallis also participating) so they all aren't doing the same thing. Doug, Ray and Graham will be at the Nature Center table, so others will be needed at the SAS table
- 6) **DMT call Aug. 29** – Ray will distribute notes. He said we may need to have email conversations about details of the Marshall and Ankeny open house events.
- 7) **Concerns about a proposed Corvallis land development** – Tim said SAS member Mark Fuller raised concerns about an upcoming hearing to remove an overlay and allow development of a large timbered parcel in Corvallis. Ray said it's an issue for Corvallis Audubon. **Action item: Ray will send Tim Jim Fairchild's (Corvallis Audubon contact) email to make sure he knows about this.**

Next meeting – 6 p.m. Sept. 26 at 338 Hawthorne.

Adjournment – 8:10 p.m.