

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

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

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. Tim called the meeting to order in Ray's absence.

Previous meeting's minutes

Carolyn asked for corrections to the April minutes and a motion to approve. The misspelling of David Harrison's name was cited as needing correction. Michael moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Doug seconded. Motion carried.

Review of action items:

- 1) **Re: a nest box meeting** – Ray has not had time to schedule as yet; item carries over.
- 2) **Sale of books from the old office** – Michael is continuing with this. He needs to create the list of titles and will aim to have it for the September Kestrel.
- 3) **Cost of buses and drivers for field trips** – Laurie contacted Salem-Keizer School District. Lowell did a cost comparison between Salem-Keizer (school groups and non-school groups) and Mid-Columbia and shared the figures with the Board. The prices reflect last year's fees. He said Salem-Keizer is basically \$36.41 per hour for a driver plus a mileage rate and depends on the size of bus. The S-K rates for a 50-mile, 4-hour trip on a large bus (78 Passengers, 3/seat or 52 passengers 2/seat) are \$191 for a school group or \$230 for a non-school group and \$290 for Mid-Columbia. For a 50-mile, 4-hour trip on a small bus (20 passengers, 2/seat), S-K rates are \$177, school group; \$210 non-school group and \$290, Mid-Columbia. For a 150-mile, 7-hour trip on a large bus, S-K rates are \$391 school group, \$509 non-school group and \$485, Mid-Columbia. Mid-Columbia is more competitive on longer trips because the rate is basically \$95 for the first hour and \$65 thereafter. Lowell said he's interested in getting a bus for a home-school group tour. Tim said there is money for such an expense through the Oregon Community Foundation education fund.
- 4) **Continued Action Item: Lowell still needs to contact Laurie Aguirre to help gauge the interest for birding field trips for students, best timing and other issues. He believes Forest Ridge and Grant would be two target schools, as well as an after-school group at Candalaria. He will follow up.**
- 5) Re: trips to see North Santiam area mitigation properties purchased by the Grand Ronde tribes: **Ray needs to get a date for a North Santiam trip.**
- 6) Re: SAS participation in Ankeny open house/Dave Marshall recognition – It's on tonight's agenda.
- 7) Re: letter to Ankeny neighbors regarding traffic concerns – Ray wrote and shared with the Board and DMT.
- 8) Re: article for September Kestrel about developing an events and volunteer list and encouraging sign-ups. Maureen said she had not heard from Ray but has a gmail account and will talk with Mike Unger re: his class list. **Action Item: She will expand on an article she has written, send it to Ray to see if it's what he is looking for.**
- 9) Re: generating SAS display item ideas for use at future events – It's on tonight's agenda.

Treasurer's Report – Tim

Tim said we are on budget with three months left in the fiscal year. It depends in part on how the summer appeal does. He had budgeted \$2,500 from that appeal. We reduced the number in the mailing, so the expense is lower.

Nature Center update – Doug and Michael

DMT call – Michael said progress was made on both the cultural research and the NEPA since the last call. Doug said \$35,000 in funding has been received for cultural compliance. The Service will contract an archaeologist for pre-groundbreaking work that should circumvent any issues that would delay the project. As for NEPA, Doug said a list of compatibility determinations (public activities foreseen at the site) has been compiled and will be attached to the Environmental Assessment. There will be opportunity (2 weeks) for public comment on the compatibility determinations. The timeline for completion is Oct. 1.

The MOA is to be done about the same time. The Board discussed whether there was need for SAS to obtain an attorney to review the document from the SAS point of view. Michael said he's hesitant to use the same firm we've used in the past for legal assistance. Selecting another firm poses several issues: They'd need to gain familiarity with SAS; we would need to find a firm familiar with federal documents; any suggestions made by an SAS attorney would then need to be reviewed again by the federal solicitor; the time for all this is short; payment would have to come out of the Gehlar funds.

Doug said he feels there's no need for another legal review, given the thoroughness of the federal review process. Tim agreed and Michael said he's comfortable with it but unsure of Ray's position. **Action item: Doug and Michael will review the issue with Ray.**

Concerns with the MOA wording include SAS being responsible for fundraising for future phases; use of actual names and not position titles for various contacts listed in the document (because employees move or are reassigned); why was a prohibition on lobbying included in the document; certain insurance requirements included in the document. Ray had expressed concern about not being able to sell things at the Nature Center, since future plans might include a nature store. Doug said the Friends of the Refuge group can sell things on all three refuges, so he's not concerned because a work-around through the Friends is possible. **Action items: The Board is to read the MOA and submit any issues they might have ASAP. Graham has said the Service wants to move the process along. Michael will call Ray and conference in Doug.**

Doug said another \$35,000 in federal funding has been found for education, which could fund the observation platform and kiosk, but probably not 3-D art work. The next Education meeting is Aug. 9.

Discussion topics:

1) Planning for Ankeny open house and Dave Marshall recognition Sept. 23 – Doug was on the planning call and said things are moving along. Another call will be at 9 a.m. Aug. 24. The event will be at the Overlook, starting with a reception at 9:30 a.m. The Friends group is donating its tent. The expectation is about 50 people, including SAS Board, Friends Board, Tom McAllister and his wife, Dave's widow as well as some of his children and grandchildren, and Refuge and Regional Service staff. Invitations will go out electronically and RSVPs are requested. The Regional Director, if she accepts the invitation, will speak. A plaque is being made up and Ray will present it. That will go into the Phase I facility and certificates are being made for Dave's widow and family members to take home.

Friends are donating \$200 for refreshments. Matt Hastings will make up brochures for the event that also can be used for fundraising. He also has tri-fold displays for SAS and Friends (for free.) Parking is still an issue. It's possible there will be a shuttle from Eagle and/or the lower area at Overlook, which would be mowed. There is a list of "to do" items. Anyone interested should contact Samantha. Chairs and tables are needed. **Action item: Carolyn and Tim will check on numbers of chairs and tables SAS has and can lend for the event. There are chairs at the storage unit and chairs/tables at the shop.**

The recognition will be followed by the open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. SAS is expected to have a display. Maureen suggested having volunteers with scopes at Eagle Marsh. Doug suggested hands-on items for kids. Portland Audubon will be there. Someone asked about Corvallis Audubon. **Action Item: Doug said he will alert Samantha.**

Maureen volunteered to lead planning for the SAS display. She said she needs ideas. Jon Pope was mentioned as a source of display suggestions. Also suggested was building bird boxes. Having a wing span

poster also was suggested. The question was where to buy. **Action item: Laurie will contact the Friends store manager about possible sources.** Tim advised Maureen to contact Samantha, who had a lot of kid friendly activities at another event. He said it also would be good to coordinate so we're not duplicating others' activities.

2) Aug. 12 event planning – Maureen said a couple of people have volunteered for the Englewood event, which runs from 11 a.m. To 5 p.m. She cannot attend since she will be gone from Aug. 12-28.

3) Jon Pope has shared some ideas for an interactive SAS kit for event display tables.

4) Tim said Patricia Farrell at the City was contacted by a Scout group about building bird boxes to put at Minto. Tim sent a list of 20 cavity nesters at Minto. She also needed information on how to build the boxes, place them, etc., and Tim shared interesting “all about bird houses” information he found at the “Nest Watch” site organized by Cornell Ornithology Lab – <http://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>. The site even has plans for building specific boxes.

Michael wondered if there would be a troop that might be interested in taking over nest box maintenance at Willamette Mission. Pam Wood had been doing it and had asked for assistance. Current status is unclear.

Action Item: Tim said he can get contact information.

5) Updated Salem Bird lists – Tim distributed copies of the updated list, which is also online at the SAS site.

Next meeting – 6 p.m. August 22 at 338 Hawthorne.

Adjournment – 8:10 p.m.