

## **SAS Board Minutes**

**Nov. 21, 2017**

**338 Hawthorne Ave. NE**

**Present:** Ray Temple, Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Judy Brunkal, Doug Spencer Lowell Spring, Maureen Leong-Kee, Laurie Buswell, administrator **Guests:** Patricia Farrell, City of Salem; Jenny Ammon; Teresa Byrne; Stephanie Hazen; Sue Hecox; David Harrison.

**Call to Order:** Ray called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Agenda items were shifted to give Lowell time to arrive.

**Turtle Ridge calendars** – Stephanie had calendars for sale (\$16) to benefit Turtle Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center. Photos by Doug Beall.

### **PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES – Carolyn**

Carolyn noted Michael's emailed correction re: clarifying that references to the Nature Center Memorandum of Understanding effectively refer to three documents --the Facility Use Memorandum of Agreement, Partner Design and Construction Agreement, and Project Management Plan. Time moved minutes be approved as corrected; Doug seconded. Motion carried.

### **Review of Action Items –**

**Tim to follow up with SAS insurance agent regarding coverage necessary under Nature Center MOUs.** He has done so but no satisfaction so far and he will continue to check sources. He said the Nonprofit Association of Oregon lists insurance partners that offer a 20% discount to no profits. Bliss (the SAS agent) is on the list but Tim will contact some others. The SAS general liability does not suffice, we're told. Ray noted that extra coverage isn't needed until a contract is let, so we have until perhaps February to resolve this.

**Re: donor contacts** – Tim made the calls himself and said he talked with several people who seemed to appreciate the thank you.

**Re: Lowell to talk with Chet about a meeting on nest boxes** – He did talk with Chet. He will report as part of his Education Program update.

### **Guest presentations**

**Patricia Farrell, City of Salem Parks Planning & Natural Resources Manager, to report on the city's Migratory Bird Conservation Strategy and other issues** – There were no bird "takes" and no problems under the migratory bird contract in place with APHIS (federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), which she first outlined to SAS in March. She said bird nesting season impact is an issue in demolition projects, culvert removal, etc. Public Works staff is on board with compliance, she said. Parks maintenance staff are working toward avoiding most nesting disturbances created by mowing and other operations.

Re: Minto trail guidance, she said they have "traffic" counters on the Minto and Union Street bridges to monitor numbers through the conservation area in order to draft trail guidelines. Special events, like marathons, are an issue. Right now, the guidelines proposal allows one big event during the nesting period (March 1-Aug. 30). There also are restrictions for no lighting in the park; no events starting in "waves" to lessen wildlife impacts; no start or finish in the conservation area, etc. The proposal has been reviewed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Bonneville Power. They wanted no more than 1 event every other weekend. When the rule is drafted, it will go to City Council and there will be a 30-day public comment period.

An area of concern is keeping dogs on the trail through the conservation area. To help, the city plans three tree plantings along the trail this year and next to keep a more restrictive edge.

Work on the River Front Park Master Plan has begun. Public input is necessary. There will be three focus group meetings and three community meetings. Ray will attend a focus group. There also will be online surveys. Issues include the new Amphitheater and Rotary Stage, the Carousel's desired expansion and parking. Master Plan adoption in May is the goal because of potential grant opportunities.

She reported that Salem's mayor was approached by the National Wildlife Federation about supporting monarch butterflies. He will take the pledge on Dec. 11 that the city will do at least three action items, such

as signing a proclamation, sponsoring a native plant and milkweed seed sale and planting a demonstration garden. She said a pollinator habitat planting has been done at Eola Ridge park.

The city also is cooperating with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, along with Idaho, Washington and California, on a turtle monitoring and habitat action grant. Minto Brown park is one of the sites involved and SAS volunteers are helping with monitoring.

### **Treasurer's Report – Tim**

He emailed the spreadsheet with details and will attach the summary to the minutes. He has been working on an account of volunteer hours because required for both the IRS filing and our annual report to National Audubon. He has asked all committees for an accounting and looks to have better documentation in future. Given the number of volunteer hours, he recommends another volunteer appreciation event be organized.

**Action item: He will research that and make a recommendation.**

### **Nature Center update**

#### **DMT call – Doug, Michael**

They reported that plans are progressing. Re: compliance aspects, an archaeologist will be selected soon to conduct the formal site survey. No dirt can be moved until testing (more thorough than the preliminary study) of the building site is done.

The Request for Qualifications document should go out soon, with responses in January requested. A list of contractors is being prepared for the Request for Proposals. The Service is working on getting money for \$28,000 in habitat restoration seeding.

The final contract with Alchemy of Design (\$130,000) will fund interpretive signage, a kiosk, etc. at the Overlook.

Ray said we need to survey partners who might like to use the Nature Center – what sort of activities, events might they foresee, how often, etc. Could use the information in grant proposals to show community support for the facility. Watershed Councils might be a source of money.

#### **Fundraising meeting with Portland Audubon – Tim, Carolyn**

Met with Executive Director Nick Hardigg and Development Director Charles Milne. The main take away was the potential for a formal connection with Georgia Marshall, widow of Dave Marshall. Nick offered to query her about the possibility of SAS meeting with her about the project and her potential support.

### **DECISION TOPICS**

**Green Awards participation, Ray** – He met with Catherine Alexander, executive director of Straub Environmental, regarding changes in this program, including the \$1,000 cost to present an award. He said she was willing to drop the price to \$750 this year but he recommends against it because of the expectation to pay the full amount in future. Judy made a motion to drop participation in the Straub Green Awards program because of the financial obligation. Carolyn seconded. Motion carried.

In addition to the Green Award program issue, Catherine also raised the possibility of SAS joining with Straub and other organizations at the EcoHub office located at Willamette Heritage Center. **Action item: Ray will share her email for a later discussion.**

#### **Sale of donated duck stamp art, Stephanie Hazen –**

Some time ago, Leonard Boeder gave SAS seven duck stamp prints, which are currently on display in the halls at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District office. She asked the Board for a decision on selling or keeping the prints and a proposal on how to sell these, if that's the choice. Ebay was discussed. Among decisions: a live auction or putting the items up for direct sale. An auction requires more work and constant monitoring. Tim said Ebay will provide advice on what to ask, etc. Doug noted that the wildlife refuges were purchased with duck stamp revenue so there might be a Nature Center connection. **Action item: Stephanie to come back with a proposal for Board action.**

**Yard, Garden, Home show planning, Maureen** – Last year's coordinators appear to be out, including Eugenia Becker, Mike Unger and Barbara Dolan. The show is a revenue source but we need a way forward, including finding a coordinator. Tim said he is willing to handle the cashier duties and Maureen will recruit volunteers. Ray said many of the information sheets distributed historically at the show need to be reviewed. The need for the usual volunteer orientation session was questioned. The Kestrel will have a request for volunteers, including a coordinator. **Action item: Maureen to put a request out to the volunteer list and she will draft a coordinator job description.** The event is March 16-18, with setup on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Information Topics**

**Education program review, Lowell** – He shared the Traveling Education Program brochure and reviewed the program information. He said he's trying to find a replacement for Bird Identification presenter Phil Caudill, who will retire at the end of the school year. Rich Swartzendruber is a possibility.

For the past 5 years, SAS has averaged about 60 programs a year. There have been 49 this year. Nest box programs average 13/year. Those programs, plus the Christmas and Mother's Day events at Silver Falls, require 500 to 600 nest boxes be produced by the SAS shop.

Audiences include preschool, elementary public schools, private schools, Juvenile Detention units, the memory unit at care facilities, home school outlets, retirement homes and Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (a summer school opportunity.) He said he has two new helpers with the nest box programs, Katie and Curtis Bosket, and has hopes they may take over this effort.

With the nest boxes, the main issue is timing because most school programs have been requested for May and June, too late for the nesting season. He has asked schools to offer the programs before spring break, which may cut down on the number of boxes SAS assembles.

In talking with Chet, he found that Chet is not convinced that swallow boxes are the way to go because wren boxes are easier to hang. Ray questioned that because swallow boxes can go on the side of a building or a fence post or other sites. Swallow boxes are easier to assemble. Lowell suggests donating 2-3 swallow boxes to schools and hang them where kids can see them. Ray supported that idea. **Action item: Lowell to pursue this with Chet.**

Re: the Christmas Fest at Silver Falls Dec. 9, Lowell said he has 4 volunteers and could use up to 8 volunteers because it's a busy event. Maureen had just sent out the volunteer notice today.

**CBC planning, Tim** – He said the teams are assembled for the Dec. 16 count and information packets and feeder count packets are ready to go out. Ray said Salem District of BLM may participate. The countdown dinner will be on Sunday again this year, back by popular appeal.

**Outdoor School, Judy** – She attended a meeting at Willamette Heritage Center to find out about the program approved by voters last November. The audience included teachers, USFWS, Straub Environmental, etc. There is \$9.8 million in funding. The presenter, Kim Elliot, had no handouts and things seem very unplanned so far, she said. The goal: to have some schools trained by next spring. The program is being overseen by OSU Extension. Some places will have day camps, not overnight programs, and the Nature Center could potentially be a site if schools opt for a day camp option. Teachers prefer the overnight format. Elliot is going from district to district to help schools set things up. Ray said Straub is positioning itself to jump into this the first year, both overnight and day camp options.

**Chapter Meeting changes, Stephanie** – She is stepping down as coordinator at the end of May. She said attendance has been falling off and it's hard to get speakers to come any distance for an audience of 20 or less. She also questioned the name and suggested it should be "Lecture Series" or something similar. PR for the meetings is important and now that the Statesman Journal is not publishing any meeting notices, it is hard to get the word out. She suggested a paid event coordinator and/or a PR coordinator to handle it all.

Ray said he would like a distinction between Birder's Nite and Chapter meetings. Both are valuable. He also would like a name change for Chapter meetings.

**Next meeting, Ray** – Probably 6 p.m. Jan. 23 at 338 Hawthorne. Ray doesn't plan a December meeting unless a crucial Board decision issue arises. Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> is an alternate date if a meeting's necessary. **Action item: Laurie to research the cost of a conference call so that we could handle it that way if needed.**

**Adjournment** – 9 p.m.