

SAS Board Minutes
Feb. 27, 2018
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 **Guest:** David Harrison, SAS Conservation chair

Call to Order: Ray called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Guest presentation – David Harrison, SAS Conservation Committee

David gave an overview of what he does on behalf of Salem Audubon in the arena of conservation issues with an eye to whether the Board feels we have adequate conservation engagement. In addition to David's efforts to keep tabs of state and national issues, Ray has been working on local issues, particularly with City of Salem.

David said he puts the SAS name on conservation issues he feels are in line with the SAS mission. He said there might be several dozen issues a year that arise and most are just a matter of signing on to a letter that some other group has sent or legislation that has been proposed. For instance he has signed on to letters of support for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, banning lead shot, etc.

He also writes the Conservation Corner pieces that appear in the Kestrel, although he said it's hard to gauge the impact the pieces have. The hope was that it would draw more people into SAS, but he has no evidence that that is the case. Tim said he thinks David's role is an important one for SAS and conservation is an important issue. He also said he thinks Conservation Corner helps people get involved with SAS and has helped raise that image for us.

Board felt that information presented in Conservation Corner pieces is not redundant for most members. Carolyn said she felt that members want to hear that SAS is aware of and supporting such issues, even if they have heard about them before.

David is also on the board of the American Bird Conservancy and the Oregon board of Nature Conservancy, so hears of many conservation issues through those avenues.

He said he tends to keep Conservation Corner to informational items, rather than calls to action because there is a pretty big lag time between writing pieces and publication and he's afraid calls to action will come out too late. It was agreed that the SAS email list is a much better way to alert members to needed actions. Communication with our members might entail a weekly email with event information and other items, as well as conservation action items as needed. Emails could be sent with an "opt out" option if members choose not to receive the information.

Action item: Ray to work with Laurie on a message alert. David said it would not be hard to produce a conservation action item every third or fourth email alert. He thanked the Board for helpful feedback.

Discussion of recent "listening session" with Portland Audubon – Ray recapped the session requested by Portland re: how they relate to other chapters around the state. This session segued into a conservation about a new "branding" effort they have undertaken, including the possibility that they might rename themselves "Oregon" Audubon.

David said his sense is that they want to go back to their original name because of the statewide work they do. He said they have been good partners on statewide conservation matters, legislation, etc., and he sees the potential change as a positive.

Ray and others felt the meetings were planned mainly around the rebranding and that a name change is probably in the offing. They did emphasize the relationship of "equals" with other chapters.

PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES – Carolyn

Three changes were noted (basically typos.) Tim moved approval of the minutes from January, as corrected; Maureen seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Action Items –

Ray to research handouts/websites for use at Yard/Garden show – Done.

Chet to be alerted re: need for bird boxes for Yard/Garden – done.

Ray to plan fewer agenda items, call for pre-meeting information sharing and set 8 pm. adjournment as a goal – Done

Decision item: Adoption of new policy language related to sexual harassment – Tim

He met with new insurance rep, Diane, at Fulwiler and the insurance company has expectations with which SAS is trying to comply, including the issue of harassment. There apparently is a need for the Board and volunteers to have background checks if they will have close, regular contact with “high risk” clients (youth, the elderly, developmentally disabled, etc.) This does not include “one-time” volunteers such as at Yard/Garden. Another expectation is that our committees will keep minutes, at least of their action items. Tim said this also satisfied a requirement of us by IRS as regards our 501(c)(3).

Action item: Tim will put these items into an email that Ray can send out.

The Board discussed how background checks would be obtained. She said Education volunteers go through checks via Salem-Keizer School District but they do take their programs to other venues. Tim said his understanding is that SAS need to arrange checks so they have the information on file. We would work through the insurance company's mechanism and the cost is \$14.95 each. Securing the information is an issue, as well as who would review the information once obtained.

It was suggested that we start with the Board and roll out the process with teachers and trip leaders.

Tim moved that the Board authorize him to take the necessary steps to satisfy the requirements for meeting improper sexual conduct coverage of our insurance policy, including asking for background check information from volunteers who may have close, regular contact with high risk clients. Ray seconded. Motion carried.

Ray (??) moved that we authorize Tim to spend \$15 per person on background checked deemed necessary. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Ray also thanked Tim for his work on this complicated issue.

Discussion item – Beginning Birding classes – Maureen

Maureen and her husband, Nick, are thinking of bringing back the Beginning Birding classes with a focus on getting people excited about the subject, bringing in a new set of birders and ways to market the classes.

They are thinking about early May to start, but getting the word out is an issue. She said they would talk with Mike Unger about how they might focus at a beginning level and then participants could move on to his sessions.

Ray said it would be good to meeting and recognize some of the other people who were involved in Begging Birding in the past – John Matthews, Kathy Patterson, Susie Lundstrom, as well as Wes Anderson. Maureen said they would be happy to check with them.

Information Items – Discussion only if there are questions

Financial update – Tim emailed. We are in good shape. Since it's the Year of the Bird, he is substituting a Birds Are Counting On You fundraiser for the Birdathon. Members are asked to pledge an amount per bird species they see throughout the year, or on various field trips or a vacation they plan. For those who pledge, there will be a drawing for some prizes at year's end.

Yard/Garden show planning – Michael said the last shift is covered. He is concerned about sources for books to be sold at the show. **Action item: Ray will look at the OSU Extension Service to see if they have any pertinent publications.** Doug said the nature store at Finley is a source of information. **Action item: Laurie to get phone number for Michael.**

Next meeting – March 27 at 338 Hawthorne

Adjournment – 7:55 p.m.