

SAS Board Minutes
March 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

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

PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES – Carolyn

Correction noted on Beginning Birding item: "Ray said it would be good to meet and recognize... who were involved in Beginning Birding....Michael moved approval as corrected; Doug seconded. Motion carried

Review of Action Items –

Message alert: Ray said the data base updates that are planned will take care of the message alert that was called for.

Yard/garden items (handouts, bird boxes, publications, sale books): Addressed and done before the show

Planning fewer agenda items: Done

Adoption of a harassment policy: Tim said new information indicates we do not need background checks for volunteers. The insurance agent said we need to make sure volunteers are not in one on one situations in a private setting with any at-risk individual (elderly, youth, disabled, etc.) The ANI group was to provide a summary policy email about avoiding the one on one situations but that has not arrived. Tim will use that to write language for the policy manual, as well as for any training we might do.

Another expectation of the new insurance agents, and IRS, is that SAS committees will keep minutes, at least of their action items. **New action item: Tim will work on language for the policy manual on this. He is contacting committee chairs and then will prepare policy language.**

Ray added that if the Chapter meetings come to an end, we will need to revise the policy manual regarding holding the annual Chapter business meeting as part of the Chapter meeting. We need to look at the manual overall and handle as many updates as possible at once..

Treasurer's Report – Tim

He distributed financials. Re: fundraising, he noted that the new fundraising idea, replacing Birdathon, the "Year of the Bird" concept has drawn interest. Several people have pledged an amount per bird they see for the year, or others per bird seen on a vacation or birding tour. Teresa has pledged \$50 if she sees 50 turtles in a day at Minto. She's also pledging for birds seen in her yard. Jenna is getting pledges for birds seen on a trip to Scandinavia. Tim will have some thank you gifts The people who pledge the most will have first choice.

He hopes to set up another Birds and Wine event at Willamette Valley Vineyards on May 18.

He said the year-end appeal letter did well so we have not had to draw any interest from our account to balance the budget.

Decision Topics

1) Memberships – How many reminders should we send? Tim said we don't really cut members off because we continue to send them appeals and they are renewed if they respond. Laurie said the next step is to send a letter to those who haven't renewed, adding that there aren't many. **Action item: Michael offered to call these people. Laurie will email him the list.**

2) Issue identification and steps to correct them – Ray shared a list of items he developed in 2012. It was noted that several of these have been addressed, at least partially. Tim said operation of the Nature Center and getting a replacement for Ray as President are two big items that need to be addressed. Ray agreed the volunteer aspect for the Nature Center is huge.

Getting a third party to lead a discussion was mentioned. Doug said the Fish and Wildlife Service needs to be part of a Nature Center discussion. He said the National Wildlife Refuge Association has facilitators and the Friends group could bring someone in. **Action item: Doug will bring this up to Friends group.**

Getting new Board members and a new President remain top issues. Connecting committees more closely to the Board is being worked on.

Action item for next month: Anyone who has a reasonable Board member candidate should follow up.

Discussion topics

Yard/Garden show – Ray suggested Michael take notes for use by next year's planners. Ray said he was impressed with the outcome. The booth layout was good and the materials for sale and the handouts were better and of high quality. Tim, who was there every day of the show, said there seemed to be a lot of people visiting the booth asking a lot of questions and taking a lot of handouts. He said it was good to have credit card capability for sales. He was glad to provide continuity (orienting each shift as they came on), but it's a lot for one person. Suggestion: Having a different person scheduled to be there all day, each day to provide the continuity and shift training. We also should set up a different system so that the credit card isn't linked to our bank account. That will eliminate the need for Tim to be there all the time to handle the charge transactions.

We gained nine new members, more than last year. Sales were off, but only slightly. Ray said the event was good outreach because many booth visitors were not birders but were interested in the birds at their house and yard and wanted more information.

Suggestion: Have a bush tit nest next year for display because many visitors wanted to know what the little birds were that flock to their yards.

There was a good selection of publications offered at the booth. Suggestion: Either give away the Audubon publications next year or just charge 25 cents. They are good basic information.

Information Items

1) Laurie got a call from Albany man who gives programs with Albany Parks and Recreation. Ray said he should contact Corvallis Audubon because it's in their service area.

2) **Action item: Tim to develop a one-page financial report for Chapter meeting – enough information to meet the legal requirement re: public information, per Ray.**

3) Ray would like a conversation at the next meeting on where we go if the monthly Chapter meetings go away (if no coordinator can be found after Stephanie retires). He would like to move it to fall, change the bylaws to reflect the change and turn it into a volunteer appreciation event, along with a year-end financial recap. We need to discuss having a business meeting that is combined with something to attract people, such as a guest speaker, as well as volunteer recognition.

4) Ray asked for feedback on reaction to the scaled-down agenda. Board agreed it's going well – but Doug said it's also nice to have a guest speaker, too. Carolyn said Salem Electric had volunteered to provide a speaker for a chapter or other meeting. **Action item: Carolyn will check with Salem Electric on this.**

Lowell said he would like a speaker on conservation easements. **Action item: Doug will check with a contact at NRCS on this.**

5) Doug asked how the Board feels about weighing in on design alternatives for the Nature Center (sliding doors vs. other types and other such choices). **Action item: Ray will circulate the list when we get it so Board can provide feedback.** He said we should be ready to sign a contract by late April. He said costs so far are within \$10,000 of estimates. No costs have yet been provided for the full design.

Next meeting – March 27 at 338 Hawthorne

Adjournment – 7:20 p.m.