

SAS Board Minutes
July 28, 2020
Ankeny Hill Nature Center

Attending: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Maureen Leong-Kee, Carolyn Homan, Doug Spencer, Lowell Spring, Judy Brunkal, and Laurie Buswell, administrator **Guests:** Mike Unger, Michael Williams **Absent:** Cynthia Donald

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and welcomed new Board candidate, Michael Williams. (Jenny Ammon, another potential Board member, was unable to attend this meeting.) Tim noted that SAS's bylaws allow Board to vote in a new member, with SAS membership vote at the next annual meeting. Tim made a motion nominating Michael Williams to the Board and Doug seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Welcome to Michael Williams!

Agenda note: Tim acknowledged the "full" agenda but said much is informational to keep the Board posted on the many issues for Salem Audubon now and in the near future. He noted that the DMT had today put on hold the Nature Center opening ceremony being planned for November. The COVID situation was deemed too unsettled to proceed. Planning will continue so the opening can be held as soon as it's safe.

Zoom webinars update, Mike Unger – He provided a handout with statistics on webinars held to date. Average participation is 15. First webinar had some technical difficulties but those have been ironed out. July 25 Owl webinar went well, with 21 signed up (\$210 revenue to SAS) and 18 actually participating. Some people are signing up through Facebook. Signups tend to come in late in the process. So far, reviews have been good and he is looking to expand topics – dragonflies, butterflies, etc. Zoom could also be used for birding "outings" – a webinar on Birding at Ankeny NWR and/or Minto-Brown, for instance, with a map of the trails, list of hot spots, pictures of birds to be seen, etc.

Mike recommended SAS purchase an annual Zoom subscription through TechSoup, to begin Aug. 1. This subscription could be used for Birder's Nite, the Beginning Birder's class, to deliver programs to schools, etc. These programs also could be shown live on Facebook. Mike said the original Zoom subscription would be kept until Aug. 31 as the Board earlier approved in order to complete his other scheduled webinars. Cost of the new subscription with one host and webinar capability would be \$340.

Tim moved that SAS purchase a Zoom Webinar, Pro version, subscription for a year (\$340) by Aug. 1. Judy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

In terms of options for hosting future programs that might draw more participants, Mike explained that the subscription starts with a maximum of 100 participants. It can be expanded to 500 at an additional cost.

Issue of recording the sessions was discussed. Michael W. said it's possible. Questions include whether to charge. Mike said a charge for recordings of the fee-required webinars would be necessary or it would undermine the classes. Michael W. also said you need to get permission from participants to share their comments, use their image, etc.

Resuming birding field trips – The Field Trip Committee is meeting Aug. 3 to discuss the question of how to conduct "trips" during COVID. Ideas floated at the last Board meeting – pre-registration, limited numbers, social distancing, etc. – got no takers from trip leaders. Issue is how to modify the traditional format. Perhaps the leader could do the outing, collect information, create a checklist and share the info by email, perhaps with photos and recordings? Mike Unger said Tucson Audubon is doing trips with limited numbers – 10 people, including the leader.

Tim said CCTV is looking for content and has recorded fly-tying demonstrations, etc. These can then be made available through YouTube. This could be done for field trips. Mike Unger suggested a camera at feeders with commentary on bird visiting. Maureen noted a Corvallis birder who is doing virtual trips. ***Action Item: Tim will talk to a CCTV producer about the possibility of virtual trips. He will pass along these ideas to the Field Trip Committee.**

Michael Babbitt suggested best idea might be to provide the information to members so people can go out on their own. Michael W. said putting content on the website would build traffic to the site – a walking guide to a virtual trip, for instance. It could be downloaded to a person's phone. SAS could create a simple template so birders could share recordings of their trips and SAS could post. These could be a resource for teachers, too. Mike Unger suggested sending a monthly email to the SAS list about what birders have seen, where, etc. ***Action item: He will write up a report from his upcoming trip with Tim.**

Minutes from June – Michael W. moved the minutes be approved as submitted; Doug seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of Action Items – 1) Lowell to take lead on potential programs for Nature Center: He distributed a handout of 24 proposed topics and presenters for discussion. Several topics would lend themselves to presentations in the Center followed by hands-on activities outside. The programs could be marketed via the website and to schools. Tim said SAS could do a CLEAR grant application to cover expenses and/or could use some of the Educational Endowment funds. Topics include Invasive plants, Soil Secrets, Furs & Skulls, Jenny Ammon instructor; Christmas Bird Count/eBird, Mike Unger; Red-Wing Blackbirds, Geese Using Valley Refuges, Bats, Sea Otter, Flora/Fauna of Peregrin Marsh, plant reproduction, Life in Surrounding Meadow, Lowell instructor; Birds in Hand, Judy Brunkal instructor; Dragonflies, Hummingbirds, Feathers & Flight, Cynthia Donald, instructor; Snakes at the Refuge, Michael LeMaster (he is Lowell's replacement on Western Oregon faculty); Bird Nests & Eggs, Eagles, Bumblebees, Native Bees, the Allaires, instructors. Lowell said the Allaires are a couple who have gone through training in order to do presentations at National Parks.

Lowell wants a program on Native Americans who once lived in the area but has no source yet. He will contact the Grand Ronde for help. "Immigrants Moving into the Area, 1840 on" also needs a source/ instructor. Doug said the Friends group has a program on elk at the refuges and would be happy to share it. **Action item: Doug will link Lowell to a Friends contact.**

A class on astronomy or a night sky program were suggested as possibilities. An owl walk also mentioned as a fun possibility. Congratulations to Lowell on a terrific programming list.

Diversity Goals – Tim said outreach to Latinos is a priority and we need to get our materials in Spanish, including website. Michael Williams noted there are programs that will translate materials but it's good to have Spanish speaker proof things to make sure any translation is sound. Re: June action item, Michael Babbitt reached out to his colleague about translating and said he is willing to help. Tim said the City of Salem's piece on diversity is very helpful re: ways to reach Latinos and a main point to acknowledge is that it is a very diverse demographic in and of itself.

Michael Williams urged consideration of diversity in terms of disabilities, too, and how these will be accommodated as a way to improve inclusivity.

Holdover action item re: possible change to SAS diversity statement: ***Action item: Michael agreed to come up with some new language.**

Financial report

Financial position --Tim said net income at \$405. Summer appeal response has been great -- \$4,500. SAS should be able to end year in the black. Individual membership income is up for the year. Friends group interested in a joint appeal related to the Nature Center. We may look at August for that letter, before the SAS appeal in September.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next Board meeting: 6 p.m. Aug. 25, location or format TBA