

SAS Board Minutes

April 28, 2020

Via Zoom call

Participating: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Maureen Leong-Kee, Cynthia Donald, Carolyn Homan, Doug Spencer, Lowell Spring, Judy Brunkal, and Laurie Buswell, administrator

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Previous month's minutes – Cynthia moved that the minutes be approved as submitted; Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Action Items – Re: revisiting bylaws to reflect ORS 65 changes, Tim said statutes may change again because of video conferencing prevalence for meetings and other IT changes. It was agreed it may make more sense to change bylaws to say we will conduct meeting in accordance with statutes rather than spell out specifics and spell out anything that's not addressed in statutes. ***Action item: Tim will put something together for next meeting**

Financial Report

Tim shared the financials via email prior to the meeting. There was \$15,928 in the unrestricted checking at the end of March. This is the account that's kept above \$10,000 to avoid fees. SAS has \$363,373 in total unrestricted funds. This was down about 22% from the previous month because of the stock market's virus-related plunge but he said it had rebounded about 11 percent in April. He said SAS has received about \$60,000 in pledges for Phase II of Gehlar and the Dave Marshall classroom. There is \$246,676 in the account for operational use; \$58,511 in CDs.

SAS has \$27,221 in unrestricted income; \$21,724 in unrestricted expenses; and \$5,497 in net unrestricted income. However, summer is the lean period for income and this year will be especially so, given cancellation of Yard/Garden, of any May fundraisers and the ongoing cancellations of the bird workshops done by Mike Unger. Year-to-year, SAS had \$17,131 in fundraising income in 2019 compared with \$13,712 this year through March. Appeal income has been down but individual contributions are up. Although fundraising income is off, expenses also are down -- \$22,314 last year compared with \$21,724.

Total unrestricted income year-to-year (also including education, meetings, membership) is \$30,391 last year compared with \$27,221 this year. Given the need for funding, it was suggested moving the mid-July appeal to late or mid-June, to provide more separation with the usual September appeal.

Tim said he's always looking for fundraising ideas and welcomed any Board suggestions. He said he is still planning a July trip to the Coast to view puffins and may make that a fundraising by asking for donations. Another idea is to move the Bird/Wine event, usually held in May, to September.

Membership update – Laurie said we have 206 members and membership income is better than last year. She has sent reminder postcards and it was decided not to send another post card but to wait for the June appeal, which usually yields some members/renewals.

Corona virus update – The number of new cases has been dropping and the curve is slowly flattening. Current predictions are for stay-at-home at least another month, perhaps longer but with fewer restrictions.

Committee Reports

Birder's Nite – Judy said meetings are cancelled through May, so no more sessions until September. Since the SAS annual meeting is usually held as part of the May Birder's Nite, that will have to be postponed until September. Maureen and Cynthia will be up for re-election and for "official" election to the Board. It's possible meeting size may still be limited so organizers may have to deal with that. A cap at 50 could be a problem, but 75 should work.

Saturday Market – Saturday Market is being held and Judy said she would check it out to see how things are working. SAS had decided to seek one Saturday in September for a booth. It was decided to see if Sept. 12 or 19 is available. *Action item: Laurie has the application and will check on dates. Tim said the 19th is better for him.

Education – Lowell said a nest box program scheduled for March 16 was cancelled the night before. No other programs scheduled but a teacher at Evergreen School recently picked up kits to hand out to students and Lowell has a \$68 check to turn in.

Conservation – Tim said this is an active group. Ray is organizing an effort to raise matching funds in order to meet the requirement included in HB2829 to provide \$1 million for recreational conservation. The group also has to provide information on what the money would be used for. Ray and David Harrison are working on a response.

Nature Center Update

- **DMT call** – Nature Center water treatment system work is done.
- A **Letter of Inquiry** to Spirit Mountain Community Fund for permission to submit a grant request to fund the play area, classrooms, trails, etc. is in. The request would be for \$36,000 toward the project, which totals about \$70,000. Of that total, SAS is providing \$5,000 and the Friends \$20,000. A Willamette habitat restoration group is in for \$10,000 but it's possible this group might fund this project if the Spirit Mountain request falls through. If the LOI is approved, the full request would be due in July.
- **Refuge roads update** – Conway Construction is working on erosion control, routing utility lines and applying for a lighting permit. Plans are to install the Ankeny Hill box culvert and a smaller one off Buena Vista in July., Vancouver,
- **Fundraising Agreement** – Graham sent it to the USFWS Solicitor for review.
- **Tables** – The tables to be built from lumber salvaged from the Ankeny Hill oak that had to be cut down should be delivered mid-summer. The cost has gone up, however, and SAS will have to put in another \$2,000 or so.
- **Opening ceremony** – This was discussed but Samantha is holding off a bit until we have a better idea of timing because of corona virus. She said she needs about 2 months lead time. The Friends plan to be a big help with this event with food, etc.
- Nature Center website – Tim has set this up and is filling in content, working with Sam. He said it's not "live" so it can't be found via Google search. *Action item: He will send a link to the Board so they can review it. The cost is \$12 the first year and \$100 after that. The domain name is ankenyhillnaturecenter.org. It will be in Spanish and English when complete.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next Board meeting: May 26.