

SAS Board Minutes
August 27, 2019
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE

Present: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Lowell Spring, Maureen Leong-Kee, Carolyn Homan, Laurie Buswell, administrator

Absent (excused): Judy Brunkal, Doug Spencer

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

Review of previous meeting's minutes (June 2019) – Carolyn asked for a motion to approve. Tim so moved and Michael seconded. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Review of Action Items – 1) Tim said the requested Letter of Support for the City of Salem's proposal for Phase 3 of its Minto Island Habitat Restoration project has been provided. 2) Discussion topic motions were carried out – a) Michael and Carolyn added as signatories on SAS's Edward Jones and Key Bank accounts b) The \$111,000 Nature Center development account has been moved from Key Bank to Edward Jones money market in order to increase its earnings. 3) Under Insurance Update, a new version of a "hold harmless" waiver statement for SAS's field trip signup sheets was reviewed. Tim used the main statement from the Chemeketans waiver language and tested it at a recent SAS field trip. All participants signed without question. The statement also is what Santiam Flycasters uses. The Board agreed it is satisfactory to meet the insurance carrier's request for such a statement for field trip participants. 4) Nest box pricing and Saturday Market participation are on tonight's agenda.

Treasurer's Report, Tim – He has sent the report via email to the Board. Highlights: The unrestricted balance is holding up so far with no need to pull any money from savings. However, the summer appeal drew little if any donations so a withdrawal will be needed to keep the account balance above the total necessary to avoid fees. The next appeal letter will go out in mid-September.

Suggested change for two restricted accounts – Tim said we have \$109 remaining in the Nature Reserve restricted account set up for the goat weed-control project a few years ago. There is also \$100 left from donations received and restricted for purchase of a new safety saw for the wood shop. Tim recommended moving these funds to unrestricted so they can be put to use. Carolyn moved that both restricted accounts be closed and the funds moved to the unrestricted account so that they can be used for SAS expenses. Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Tim said we did received a \$40 donation for the Nature Center as a result of the recent summer appeal. The funds will go into the restricted fund for Phase II of the Nature Center project. Eventually the remainder of Phase I funds will need to be rolled over into the Phase II account.

Updates:

1) Nature Center –

a) DMT Call Notes – Tim said the well water contamination issue is close to being solved. All EPA testing is done and the water still shows coliform contamination. Testing showed high amounts of iron in the water which precludes use of UV disinfection, which is more expensive anyway. Sodium hypochlorite treatment looks like the best treatment option. Tests to show whether the water is being influenced by algae or pollen from surface water should be back soon. If so, filtration before disinfection will be required. But that's the last piece of information needed before proceeding with water system design. The DMT then will have to decide who pays. Tim said SAS will offer to cover a share. When that's all complete, we can begin the process of transferring the Center to Fish and Wildlife Service control.

Tim said the DMT group also discussed a couple of invoices from Dalke that had raised questions. One was a pre-approved issue. Tim's awaiting answers as to the other invoice.

b) Georgia Marshall visit –

The meeting with Georgia Marshall, widow of Doug Marshall, namesake of the Center classroom to be built at Peregrine Marsh, is set for Sept. 10. Graham and Ray will participate, along with Tim and Carolyn. There will

be a short PowerPoint presentation and we will ask Georgia how she might be able to help us realize a completed classroom at Peregrine.

c) Fundraising Strategy for future Nature Center phases – SAS will need much more money in order to finish Phase II of the Nature Center, as well as the Doug Marshall classroom. Holding a fundraiser of some sort is one possibility to garner some of the funds. SAS was recently notified of another donation of Duck Prints – a collection valued at \$20,000, on top of Duck Prints we already have. One idea is to use the prints as the basis for a dinner/auction event to benefit the Nature Center. Board members in attendance agreed to help with planning for such an event.

2) **CLEAR grant for meetings** – This grant has been received. There was some question, given a new emphasis on the need to position SAS programs to support environmental awareness and responsibility, which is a better fit with the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District mission. Tim has talked with SAS Committee chairs about trying to promote those goals as part of our programs and gotten broad support.

Decision topics –

Cats and birds – SAS donor Craig Cline has raised what he feels is a critical issue in need of SAS attention – the toll free-roaming cats take on the bird population. Tim has met with him and feels SAS can do more to inform its members about the issue. For a start, we will reprint an article David Harrison wrote a few years ago that addresses this problem. Tim also plans links on our website to information and is reprinting a handout from Portland Audubon. He also told Craig he would seek other opportunities to inform membership as they arise. Ray is looking into crafting a Board policy proposal for future consideration.

SAS specimens at Baskett Slough – Tim said Graham has asked that SAS reclaim these specimens.

*** Action item: Michael said he would contact USFWS about the proper process of disposal, since some of the specimens are in poor shape.** Lowell wants to look them over to see if any of the specimens might be of use by the Education Committee. ***Action item: Tim and Lowell to inventory what is there.**

Community Outreach Opportunities – Tim shared a list of upcoming events in which SAS could participate. The issue: what is the goal for SAS to participate? Visibility in the community? Membership? Events include a Latino Fest, Focal Point Photography event at Ankeny refuge, Terra Gardens Fall Fest (SAS is having a nest box table), Geer Crest Farm event, East Salem Community Day. Tim plans to help with the Focal Point field trip Sept. 21 at Ankeny. It's a photography event but they requested help with bird identification. Tim said Geer Crest has invited SAS to participate in its fall fest event, which is focused on nature, heritage and farming practices. Lowell said he could see a program on otters and beavers as a fit. ***Action item: Lowell to contact them about participating in the Oct. 5 event.**

Nest Box price update – The price list needs changes because kits are listed as the same price as assembled boxes. It was decided to keep wren box kits priced at \$10 and raise assembled boxes to \$15. Chickadee boxes will go to \$20 (kits at \$15) and raise owl boxes to \$95 (similar to online prices from other sources). ***Action item: Laurie will email the adjusted list to Chet and the Board.**

Reschedule September Board meeting – Judy has asked the meeting be moved because of a family event conflict. Carolyn said she would be out of town if the meeting moved to Sept. 17. Carolyn made a motion to move the September meeting to Oct. 1. Lowell seconded. Motion carried.

SAS member introductions in the Kestrel – Tim suggested profiling active members as a way to engage the membership in chapter activities and accomplishments. The effort would need a volunteer to conduct the interviews. ***Action item: Michael agreed to launch this.** Two profile possibilities: Mike Unger or Curt and Katie Bosket.

Shop update – Lowell said the shop crew is down to two because Pat Gallagher's health has prevented his participation. Chet is trying to recruit a third volunteer.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. **Next Board meeting: NOTE DATE CHANGE** – 6 p.m. **Oct. 1**, 338 Hawthorne NE, Salem, OR