

SAS Board Minutes
June 25, 2019
338 Hawthorne Ave. NE

Present: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Lowell Spring, Maureen Leong-Kee. Carolyn Homan
Absent: Judy Brunkal, Doug Spencer, Laurie Buswell, administrator
Guests: Ray Temple; Zach Diehl, Program Coordinator, City of Salem Public Works; Aubrey Cloud, Ash Creek Forest Management (contractor with City of Salem)

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

Guest speakers: Ray introduced Zach Diehl and Aubrey Cloud to detail the City of Salem's proposal for Phase 3 of its Minto Island Habitat Restoration project. The proposal seeks \$322,772 in funding from Bonneville Power Administration and Meyer Memorial Trust. Estimated City contribution is \$52,909. The purpose is to enhance and restore riparian floodplain forest and seasonally inundated wetland habitats and to encourage replenishment of large woody debris and regrowth of replacement trees.

Zach said the area provides a lot of value to the river as a large woody debris source and off-channel refuge for fish during high water episodes. The problem is the area is not getting replacement trees because saplings are being choked out by invasives (reed canary grass, blackberries, etc.) Phase 3 will focus on removing the invasives and replanting with native trees and shrubs. Some sprays will be used early on. Crews will help the plantings mature so the canopy can provide shade to suppress weeds.

Aubrey said the plan is to hit the invasives hard early on with approved sprays. Two applications are planned. The timing of the sprays, as well as take-down of trees, is restricted to protect nesting birds so no sprays from March to August. They will work to minimize the impact on wintering birds, too. They will be using backpack sprayers, so birds are aware of approaching workers and flush before any spraying takes place. Winter spraying spares native vegetation, too, because they have dropped leaves and thus sprays aren't taken up by the plants.

Zach said one condition of the project is that no new trails will be created in order to discourage access into this protected conservation area. They will be leaving a 6-foot-wide blackberry hedge along the existing hard path to discourage access until the new vegetation takes hold. The blackberries will then eventually be removed.

Zach said the City would appreciate a letter of support from Salem Audubon for the grant proposal and the Board agreed. He said the letter would be needed by early August.

A theoretical Phase 4 of Minto Island work would involve the slough that abuts Audubon's parcel in the north end of Minto Brown Park. The target there is aquatic primrose, which is so invasive that it is blocking fish passage and recreational use, such as kayaking.

Ray commended the city for the restoration work it's undertaken at Minto Island.

Zach pointed out some other City projects of interest to Audubon, including pollinator gardens created the past 2 years as part of the Mayor's Monarch pledge. The first was at city hall where milkweed was planted in some existing planters. This year in February, a wild flower garden was planted at Eola Ridge Park in West Salem. He said the goal is to add a garden a year at sites throughout the city.

They also are working on an updated weed/pest management plan and a master plan for the old Battle Creek golf course property.

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

Review of Action Items – Tim said most items would be addressed throughout the agenda.

Treasurer's Report, Tim – He has sent the report via email to the Board. Highlights: Income exceeds expenses by \$3,992.65. That is down from last month because of a \$2,000 insurance payment for liability coverage. Also, we missed three rent payments and had to catch up. Rent has been put on an auto-pay basis. He said the Return on Investment of our accounts is strong so far. Because revenue through appeals and membership remains strong, we have not had to draw from the investment funds.

Updates – Nature Center, DMT Call Notes – Tim shared a recap of the DMT call. Well water quality is still at issue and the building can't be conveyed until the issue is resolved. The contractor is working on getting estimates from firms for the needed analysis.

SAS Involvement at Nature Center –

Scheduled activities – Tim shared a list of possible activities, including Board meetings, educational workshops, nature walks, use by other environmental education organizations, use by school groups and citizen science opportunities (bird surveys, butterfly/bee counts, Dusky Canada gees band surveys, reducing bird window strikes).

Operations – Standard Operating Procedures need to be developed. Salem Audubon will be involved as the DMT will morph into an operations management group of some kind. Tim said he has volunteered to research and develop a website for the Center and provide ongoing management. He said he would ask Mike Unger about a possible Facebook page or incorporating Nature Center updates into the SAS page.

SAS also will be involved as a sponsor of third-party users and how to provide for Center shut down and security for these other users.

Financial support of operations – SAS, the Service and the Friends organization have agreed to share in these expenses, including classroom furnishings, window treatments (Ray has ID'd options; cost about \$1,000); educational resources (audio visual equipment; project kits – Samantha has about \$5,000 for these and Jenny Ammon, the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District educational representative also is a resource); volunteers; WiFi/Internet – Tim said this is another area that SAS might handle; electricity; maintenance; fundraising to support operations and to support subsequent development.

SAS funding sources for the Nature Center – Referring to areas of support Tim singled out for Salem Audubon, he presented a list of SAS funding sources for the Nature Center: the Gehlar account (\$111,000 for future center development); Oregon Community N.C. Investment fund proceeds (for equipment such as tables, chairs, window treatments, etc.; Oregon Community N.C. Education fund proceeds (\$3,496 for education programming); N.C. Investment funds (\$282,191 producing about \$11,288 in usable interest annually) to support programming and operations, including the website, WiFi, etc.

He then made a motion to approve the proposed purposes and uses of Nature Center funding sources as described in the June 25, 2019 document (see attached). Michael seconded. Motion carried.

Decision topics –

Leadership transition, change of signature authorities – Tim said we need to remove Ray's name as an SAS account signatory on the Edward Jones and Key Bank accounts. He made a motion to add Michael, Vice President, and Carolyn, Secretary, signatories, in addition to him as President, on these accounts. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

He also said our Edward Jones representative had suggested that the firm's money market account was doing well currently. Since SAS has \$111,000 at Key Bank that is earning basically no interest, he proposed moving it to the money market. Lowell made a motion that SAS transfer the \$111,000 Nature Center development account to the Edward Jones money market. Tim seconded. Motion carried.

Insurance update – Tim canceled our volunteer medical coverage and we got the \$300 back. On another issue, the carrier asked us to add a "hold harmless" statement to our field trip sign-up sheet. It doesn't preclude a participant's right to sue but it does set up an expectation of some responsibility for participants. He shared a suggested clause which he adapted from the Chemeketans' sign-up form. The Board reviewed briefly and while agreeing it was a good idea to add some language, they decided it needed some editing. The Board agree to revisit the form at the July meeting.

Other items for next meeting: Items to organize for public event/booth presentations; revise next box pricing because of effects on sales of nest box kits. Also need to find out if we have a Saturday Market date in September.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next Board meeting: 6 p.m. July 23, 338 Hawthorne NE, Salem, OR