

SAS Board Minutes

June 22 2021

Via Zoom call

Participating: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Judy Brunkal, , Maureen Leong Kee Mike Williams, Cynthia Donald, Lowell Spring, Laurie Buswell, administrator **Guests:** Harry Fuller, Chet Zenone

Absent: Jenny Ammon, Mike Williams, Doug Spencer

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes from May – Three corrections noted: 1) Under SAS office move, Cynthia suggested jet packs (not pods) for Internet. 2) Under Education Committee: Bobbi Allaire will be helping 3) Under Birder's Night: committee is looking at how to integrate Zoom. Cynthia moved approval as corrected; Judy seconded. Motion carried.

Financials for May – Tim had shared a 3-year perspective in order to show a comparison with a "normal" year (2019), not just 2020, the pandemic year. He said income has stabilized from last year. SAS still has not had to draw from savings but we're entering the most challenging time. A summer appeal will go out soon. The Nature Reserve tree bill will take all of the \$2,000 in operating income. Bottle drop income isn't showing on the balance sheet so he needs to track that. There was a \$500 insurance refund because no school programs and no field trips, so no need for sexual harassment coverage or \$10/field trip coverage. Marion SWCD gave a small rent discount because of water leak that forced Laurie to move

Webinar report – Mike Unger shared this via email. There have been 13 held so far with 194 participants. The numbers are down from the in-person sessions at ODFW but we're staying connected with people and 25% of participants are new. Mike is also providing where to bird and bird sighting information. The chapter also has 29 You Tube videos up that are getting some traffic.

COMMITTEES

Education – Lowell reported on school events coming up at Perrydale and Cascade. The first program at Perrydale is June 30, Building Nest Boxes with 100 or so kids. July 1, Kathy Patterson is to present a program on owls (Lowell trying to contact her; she's reportedly on vacation) Then July 8, Bobbi Allaire and Lowell will be presenting on beaver and sea otters. On July 12, Lowell is doing a program on bats.

Cascade events start Aug. 16 – a nest box building station. Lowell needs help moving the nest boxes around and needs shade for the set-up. Jenny has said she has students willing to help and Tim also offered to set up the SAS canopy. Judy said she can help and would coordinate with Lowell on set-up issues.

Wood shop – Chet Zenone is working with John Jorgensen as a potential new leader for the wood shop. Chet said he's an accomplished wood worker and he thinks John will step up. Chet has bought new wood to replace a batch that was warped. He's also working with Lowell on a way to salvage some of the damaged wood. Chet said the shop is pretty much on summer hiatus and has enough stock to supply Lowell's need for upcoming programs. Cynthia asked about using some of the warped wood to create chew toys for parrots. She will research it – there's a possibility the oils in cedar wood might make it unsuitable for this use.

Birder's Night – The committee would like to continue offering a Zoom option in addition to in-person for future meetings for those who don't want to drive at night. In addition, speakers from distant locations could be accommodated this way and the September speaker, from Mexico, is the first example. Tim said in these situations, it would be nice if the speaker could see the audience. SAS would need a webcam to accommodate this, but these are only about \$100 ***Action item: Tim has a webcam to experiment with. He will set up a Zoom practice session with the September speaker as a test.**

The next issue is securing a new meeting site for Birder's Night. There is no Internet capability at the Methodist Church. Harry said he talked to the Salem Library, which plans to move back into the remodeled building Sept. 1. Rent is \$40 for the Anderson room (80 person capacity) and there would be no technical problems there. He needs to find out if they can guarantee the 9 Tuesday nights.

A third issue: Compensation for speakers. In the past, it has been \$25 to \$30, which is too low considering the work that goes into preparing a presentation –10 to 20 hours – Tim said. Jenny said MSWCD pays \$150 or more, some groups pay \$400 or \$500. Santiam Flycasters pays \$200 at least. The Birder's Night Committee backed paying at least \$100 as a base rate, plus transportation costs and dinner if that's an option. Cynthia argued that groups in Arizona she's familiar with provided lodging and food and allowed presenters to sell their books. There was no other pay and she personally would never accept payment for a local or in-state presentation.

Much discussion ensued, including: the prevalence now of Zoom presentations; is travel involved for the speaker; the time of year (winter travel can be dicey); what about a donation to the presenter's conservation organization if applicable? Tim noted that the Board needs to weigh in because the current committee budget is \$425 and that needs to change if up to \$100/speaker is authorized.

Michael moved authorizing the Birder's Night Committee to offer up to \$100/speaker. Maureen seconded. Motion carried.

****At this point in the meeting, Tim lost his Internet connection. Michael B. then assumed meeting leadership.**

No reports from Conservation, Nature Reserve

New SAS logo – Cynthia lobbied for the No. 3 design. There was agreement that the “bent over” Kestrel wasn't good and a more upright pose would be preferred in any of the designs. A rework was requested. There is a timing issue, however. Laurie said she needs a new design to order more letterhead and envelopes and a delay could also delay the summer appeal.

Office move – Laurie said this is set up for July 22 and Tim has a friend who will help. Verizon will be our cell carrier and Laurie will work with them for a Jet Pack for Internet at the Stayton location. The new space is much smaller so several things will have to go to the storage unit. Judy's Bird in Hand bins are there and she and Michael will meet there with Laurie to work out where everything will fit. Michael needs to check the bird specimens in order to finalize the required report to U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Laurie said there also are furniture issues and she and Tim hope to present an offer to the current landlord for some piece that will work in the new, smaller space. Cost will be about \$200.

SJ ad update -- Laurie said \$360 was paid for the first ad but then a second bill for \$400 was received. Tim is negotiating with SJ on this.

Diversity statements – Mike Williams is going to look at these. Cynthia said she did not like the second section's reference to “white settlers.” It was really “foreign settlers.” She said she had emailed Tim about it.

Ankeny Hill Nature Center

Cynthia visited on Sunday and said the gate is working. The prairie is in full bloom and gorgeous with wild flowers. The Nature Explore area is amazing.

Georgia Marshall visit? – She visited earlier to see the Gehlar Hall site and future site of the Dave Marshall classroom. Tim is trying to work with Georgia's friends Claire Pucy and Lynn Herring from Portland Audubon to arrange another visit so Georgia can see the progress at the complex. Tim has suggested July 20, 24 or 25.

Odds, ends -- Laurie said the year-end reports to National Audubon and IRS are caught up. SAS also received a payout from Oregon Community Foundation.

Adjourned at 8 p.m. **Next meeting:** 6 p.m. July 27, possibly at the Nature Center (weather permitting.)