

**SAS Board Minutes**  
**Oct. 29, 2019**  
**338 Hawthorne Ave. NE**

**Present:** Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Lowell Spring, Maureen Leong-Kee, Judy Brunkal, Doug Spencer, Carolyn Homan, Laurie Buswell, administrator

**Call to Order:** Tim called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and announced that scheduled guest Cynthia Donald, a prospective new Board member, was unable to attend.

**Review of previous meeting's minutes (September 2019)** – Carolyn asked for a motion to approve. Tim noted two corrections in the Cats/Birds policy section: “We aim to educate cat owners and others...”; ...”including the feeding of feral cats...” and the need for a close parenthesis at end of “...and other natural areas.”) Doug moved approval of the minutes as corrected, Michael seconded. Motion carried.

**Review of Action Items** – 1) Ray had agreed to write a preamble to the Kestrel article about the Cats/Birds policy. This was done. 2) Re: outreach regarding the policy, Tim said Laurie has found flyers on the subject, sources have been listed on the website and Maureen shared a Facebook video she found on the subject of cats and birds. 3) Re: bird strike protection tests, Tim said the Solex material that was in consideration for the Nature Center was a failure in a test at his house. **\*Action item: He has the name of an installer and he will follow up but he is skeptical about the prospects, given the results at his house. We need assurances of an effective installation at the Nature Center, which would run several thousand dollars.**

**Treasurer's Report, Tim** – The September report was sent via email to the Board. Re: the current budget, he said Education Program income has come up \$2,400 short. Should we market these programs better? Laurie said a letter was sent to schools in the past. Lowell thinks it would be best to spend time developing programs for the Nature Center. Tim said we can't collect program fees at the Center, because of a federal prohibition, but could pay ourselves like we do with the CLEAR grant.

This year's fundraising efforts are up about \$1,200 and membership fee income is up about \$1,000, despite developing more sustained givers. At the same time, expenses dropped about \$2,800 from budgeted amounts. Tim had budgeted a deficit of \$5,323 but will only have to draw about \$3,000 from the Operating Investment Fund to cover this year's shortfall. Tim said the investment fund is up about \$100,000 since 2013, compared with draws of \$5,000 in 2017-18; \$8,100 in 2016-17; \$5,900 in 2015-16; \$7,200 in 2014-15; and \$1,100 in 2013-14.

**Fall appeal** – The fall appeal letter did well, compared with the summer appeal which brought in nothing. SAS sent 583 fall appeals, including to some local National Audubon members and SAS members who had not renewed their membership, and received 35 responses, a 6% return rate. That brought in \$2,650, compared with a cost of \$530. Thanks are extended to all who gave. A 6% response rate for a direct mail appeal is considered very high – 1 or 2% is more typical. The end-of-year appeal is ready to be mailed out in mid-November.

**Future fundraising** – Tim is thinking about planning a Birds/Beer event that would combine a birding trip to the Coast with a visit to Rogue Brewery, building on the Birds/Wine event that has been successful. He's looking for “fun” events and welcomes ideas.

**2019-20 budget** – Tim will have a budget draft at the November meeting.

**Upcoming Oregon Audubon Council meeting** – Tim will attend this event Nov. 3-4 in Eugene. The fall meeting focuses on conservation. Portland Audubon's conservation director Bob Salinger will have a detailed report on conservation priorities for the coming year. Tim will meet with Ray the following week to report on issues of note.

## Nature Center update

- Water system – A water treatment solution has been selected (pre-filtration for minerals, a softener and UV treatment to handle coliform contamination). Cost is \$7,862 cost but how that will be divided between the partners isn't decided. Future maintenance will be up to Fish and Wildlife. The center will have a “transient non-community water system” which is, by definition, capable of serving “25 people for at least 60 days/year.”
- Transfer of ownership – Tim said the certificate of substantial completion is in hand from Dalke so transfer to the Service can take place. He said \$38,000 in retainage has been paid to Dalke and we owe just another \$3,000 in retainage for the cap on the well head. Michael asked if Dalke was interested in working on future phases and Tim said they definitely are.
- Finalizing operating procedures – We are still waiting for Samantha to be back from maternity leave, which reportedly will be end of October.
- Nature Center capital campaign – Tim visited Michelle Miller of LaChouette winery who said she is willing to support the project and host a fundraiser at her home. She said they have held fundraisers before. **\*Action item: Tim will talk with her. He also plans to meet with David Craig of Willamette U., who also is interested in the project.** Other issues: We need to decide how to monetize the duck stamps we've been given. Doug noted the need to decide on a way to honor donors to the project with some kind of “donor wall” or other recognition at the Center.

## Other items:

1. **Christmas Bird Count** – Tim is still the coordinator. **\*Action item: Michael volunteered to help with planning.** Several sector leaders are new this year.
- 2) **Don Christensen memorial** – Michael said that family members had asked at the time of Don's death if a memorial could be arranged in his honor at the West Salem Reserve. Michael agreed to organize that and thinks planting a tree would be appropriate. He has talked with Lee Slatum and Eugenia Becker and both are on board with the idea. Michael thinks it could be arranged for next spring and is looking to select a native tree that is not currently at the Reserve – perhaps a native dogwood. **\* Action item: He will research and get information to Tim.**
- 3) **Volunteers** – Maureen said she's had people interested in volunteering but had no projects for them. They are on a list for future opportunities. Tim said Jenny Ammon at Marion SWCD is a source for volunteer opportunities.
- 4) **Nest boxes** – Lowell said he has a program st at Heritage School ad Saturday he was at the opening of Turner Trail where they did 15 to 20 nest boxes (although it was a free event so there could be no charge.) Coming up is a Dec. 7 retirement center charity event. To raise money for lower income residents, they will charge \$10 per nest box, with \$5 to the center and \$5 to SAS. Next up is the Dec. 14-15 Christmas event at Silver Falls. He said he plans on 150 or so nest boxes for that event.

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

**Next Board meeting:** 6 p.m. **Nov. 26**, 338 Hawthorne NE, Salem, OR