Apalachee Audubon Board Minutes

October 9, 2019

6:30 – 8:15pm, Audubon Florida Office

Submitted by Donna Legare, Secretary

**Board members attending**: Peter Kleinhenz, Donna Legare, Ben Rangel, Amelia Fusaro, Peter Kelly, Elizabeth Georges, Dara Miles Wilson (facetime), Howard Kessler, Chase Brestle, Rob Williams, Kathleen Carr, Harvey Goldman, Peter Goren

**Intern attending:** Nelson Ball

**Guest attending**: Bill Everitt

**September Board Minutes were approved**. Elizabeth will post on website.

**Treasurer’s report** –

----Transactions:                  2019 - 2020 fiscal year -------------
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  8/ 8/19     NAS                 VENDOR PAYCCD 14328           $500    $24610.69
  8/21/19 982 Big Bend Forestry   1 hr work                     $125    $24485.69
  8/21/19 983 Peter Kleinhenz     NAS Scholarship award         $500    $23985.69
  8/23/19 984 NAS                 Michael Cunningham membership  $20    $23965.69
  8/23/19     Michael Cunningham  membership                     $20    $23985.69
  8/29/19 985 Natine Nurseries    Lake Elberta lanndscaping     $263.58 $23722.11
  9/10/19 987 Barbria Gardner     Lake Elberta Intern           $500    $23222.11
  9/10/19 988 Nelson Ball         Lake Elberta Intern           $500    $22722.11 OK
  9/18/19 989 Peter Kleinhenz     Reimb                          $50    $22672.11
  9/19/19 990 Brian Moe           Tech Support                   $40    $22632.11
  9/19/19 991 Pat Press           St Marks Monorch Festival      $65    $22567.11
  9/19/19 992 Bruce Means         Membership talk               $200    $22367.11
  8/22/19     NAS                 NAS 6086VENDOR PAYCCD 14328   $430    $22797.11
  9/ 5/19 986 Target Printing     Brouchures                    $878.80 $21918.31
  9/23/19 993 Peter Kleinhenz     Audubon Assembly Registration $135    $21783.31
  9/23/19                         Paypal                         $48.60 $21831.91 OK
10/ 1/19     Diana Graham        Donation                       $20    $21851.91
10/ 1/19     Charles McClure via Fidelity Charitable Donation $3000    $24851.91
10/ 1/19 994 Nat Aud Society     Audubon Adventures, 16 kits   $735.20 $24116.71
10/ 9/19 995 Ben Rangel          Aud Assembly Registration     $125    $23991.71

**Please note the donation of $3000 from Charles McClure. We forgot to go over this report at the meeting, so please look this over thoroughly.**

**News:**

Lilly has resigned from the AAS board but will remain on program committee. Norma Skaggs may be interested in joining the board. The board advises her to provide a brief biography, also stating why she wants to join, and come to a board meeting.

**October Program** – Democrat article written by Donna and posted by Lilly should run Friday, October 11. Program has been submitted to TD calendar and to ESP. Ben will attend ESP next Tuesday and Nelson will promote at Wednesday’s FSU market. He will ask Harbria to promote at FAMU. Donna will ask Chris to send out an email next week as well. Donna will be out of town next week. She will ask Lilly to introduce Jim Stevenson. Elizabeth will fill in on coffee duty.

**Tallamy Program** – we are concerned that the King auditorium may not be big enough. Peter reports that other Audubon groups from around the state are planning to come. Donna will check into the possibility of moving the program to HCB 101 or 102 on FSU campus and will report back.

**Surpassed 1000 likes on Facebook** – Kathleen reports that it is now at 1097

**Audubon Assembly** – October 25 – 26 – in Gainesville – Donna and Kathleen are each traveling separately. Peter, Ben and Nelson will carpool.

**Education**

**Pineview** has started up again. The regulars are Peter, Kathleen, Betsy and David. They cannot all be there every time. Peter had to go it alone last week. Dara will ask for volunteers from Outdoor Afro. Peter will ask for more volunteers at the Program Meeting. You do not have to come every time.

**St. Marks NWR Donation for Environmental Education** – Harvey will send the check for $1250 and Donna will contact Lori Nicholson to let her know it is on the way. We should encourage teachers at Pineview to take advantage of this funding.

**Cub Scouts** – Peter helped with Cubs at Phipps Park – good outreach to parents as well. They would love more field trips if anyone else is interested.

**Horn Springs Update** – 39 bird species were seen. We are invited to come back in winter and spring to record bird sightings for the management plan. Everyone is encouraged to come out and use the park.

**ESP Meetings** – Nelson and Ben go to the meetings every Tuesday at 7pm. Others are encouraged to go if interested.

**Lake Elberta** – the wildflower bed near power lines was mowed accidentally. Peter is meeting with City about this. Elizabeth suggests a fence. It would have to be removeable because ultimately the wildflower beds have to be mowed at least annually (February or so). Nelson reports that there will be an **Invasive Plant Removal Day on Sunday, October 20 from 9 – noon**. He will ask Harbria to set up an entry on Meet-up. The board approved an annual fee of $16 - $20 for Meet-up. He will inform FSU students – ESP and TriBeta (Biology) and meteorology students. **Nov. 3 there will be a Milkweed Planting Day.** There may be another planting day in January – Peter G. will bring Itea shrubs. Nelson has requested a meeting with Susan Tanski with City of Tallahassee to propose additional plantings in park.

**Conservation**

**Knight Tract Update**

Amelia attended Sentinel Landscape meeting in St. Augustine on September 30th representing AAS. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. Priorities are to protect working farms, working forests and conservation lands that impact military activities at Eglin which includes 5 bases and 2 airfields. The Knight Tract is in a critical flight path. AAS is asked to be a partner in the support of this Sentinel Landscape (Eglin). We are asked to write a letter of commitment which would outline our contribution and the benefit – above and beyond what we currently do. Describe what we would do if Eglin is awarded Sentinel Landscape designation. Counties need to be supportive of the designation – we could be involved in getting that support. We are waiting for commitment letter template. Also, there will be one more meeting in the Panhandle.

Rob reports that the Knight Tract is still in the running with Florida Forever. He and Norm Capra from Bay County Audubon will attend the ARC meeting on October 18th. He feels certain Knight Tract will be listed. The actual ranking occurs in December. The potential buyer is probably a timber company so there is potential for a conservation easement.

**Phipps Park** – Rob reports that he will give feedback to North Florida Water Management District which owns and leases part of Phipps Park about invasive plant species and encroachment of roads and structures related to Horse Trials. This is prime bird and butterfly habitat.

**Talquin State Forest** – Peter will be making comments on their park management plan.

**Blueprint 2000**

Peter, Donna, Ben, Dara, Jake, Nelson and Jody met with Blueprint 2000 staff. We will give input on species diversity of mitigated trees for holding pond where large live oaks were cut. Dara is waiting on information about the status of History and Cultural Trail and Coal Shute Pond. We will meet again with Blueprint staff about their five-year plan that includes Debbie Lightsey park. Donna requests that we meet them at the park when the park is discussed. If we get involved with Blueprint, we plan to hold them accountable. We will record what they have done and not done concerning our recommendations on our website. We can also publish this on our e-newsletter.

**How can we ensure that trees and other habitats are considered more going forward?**

Bill Everitt provided a 10-minute success story of how they approached this issue in Atlanta using a Community Conservation Approach. Donna mentioned to Bill after the presentation that there is a relatively new organization in Tallahassee – a coalition of neighborhoods – that are working on issues such as this – trying to find out well in advance about development and projects. I will bring it to their attention and see if we can get something going.

**Old Growth Forest Network** – also see attachments

Amelia agreed to chair our committee with Peter as her second. Donna and Ben will also be active. Others are welcome. Elizabeth is willing to help with graphics. Liz Schold and Liz Sparks are also willing to serve. Peter thinks this would qualify for an Audubon Action Grant. The event with speaker will take place in February 2021 but we are getting started on planning now.

**Remaining Items**

Peter is starting a new job with Tall Timbers and will be planning conservation events around the Wacissa and Aucilla Rivers. He would like to involve Audubon.

**Monarch Festival** – Saturday, October 26. Carol and Pat will set up and cover the booth from 10 – noon. Amelia and Bill (serving for St. Marks) will pick up all materials from booth at 4pm. We need people to cover the booth between noon and 4.

**Next board meeting is on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:30pm.**