Apalachee Audubon Society

Board Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

6:30 – 7:40 PM ET

Scribed by Heather Levy

Attendees: Heather Levy, Peter Kleinhenz, Donna Legare, Amelia Fusaro, Kathleen Carr, Nelson Ball, Robert Williams, Peter Goren, Liz Schold, Dara Williams, Sarah Calzada, Ben Rangel, Norma Skaggs, Harvey Goldman, Dara Wilson, Howard Kessler, Chase Brestel, Peter Kelly

*Housekeeping:*

* Motion to accept minutes from board retreat: Accepted
* Thank you to Pete with input from Dara and Natasza for the inclusivity statement
  + Used by other Florida Audubon chapters

*Communications:*

* Dara is head of communications committee, also working on Instagram posts and organizing zoom meetings
* Pete and Ben are currently doing newsletter together
  + May discuss in future who plays which role, but for now items for newsletter can be sent to both
* Kathleen maintaining Facebook page

*Treasurer report from Harvey*

* Same as last meeting, not many changes, ~ $20,000
* Special thank you to Harvey for not only keeping track of our banks, but also keeping up to date with important forms like the FL Department of Ag that allows us to accept contributions

----Transactions:                  2020 - 2021 fiscal year -------------

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 7/ 3/20 051 Kathleen Carr       1 yr SquareSpace web hosting  $216    $20013.54

 7/10/20 052 WFSU/FSU Foundation sponsor BBEF                  $300    $19713.54

*Environmental Education*

* Outdoor afro having is having a virtual meeting this Saturday
  + Sign up on EventBrite
* Pines to Palms
  + Meetings to resume next month: Monday October 13 at 5:30 PM
  + Current committee members: Amelia, Pete, Donna, Nataza, Ben, John Outland, Liz Schold, Liz Sparks, Jim Stevenson, Jeff Hugo

*Lake Elberta*

* + Pete, Ben, Nelson, Heather helping out
  + Donna, Jody helping as needed
  + Peter G interested in getting involved
  + Updates on city from Pete:
    - City keeps messing up on where to mow, resulting in marked plants getting mowed
      * Need to contact city to replace sign post for native planting sign
    - Kenny to potentially donate pine straw for areas where they are mowing
  + Need to do an invasive removal plant day in the next month
    - Schedule a date
    - We can involve the general public if we wear masks and there are less than 10 people
    - One city employee needs to be present and we cannot apply any herbicide
  + Planting of trees will need to wait until January

*FSU sustainability fellows update*

* Sarah Calzada is the sustainability fellow
* Main contact is Pete, with help from Heather, Ben, Nelson, and Howard
  + Project: Bat house installation and monitoring at Lake Elberta
    - Accomplished:
      * Research on bat houses, placement, and local species
      * Met with Kenny Welsh (head of maintenance for the city) for site visit to discuss optimal placement
    - Future:
      * Research ways to monitor house and look for grants to fund project
      * However, we could potentially self-fund
        + Optimal project since it is a combination of an internship and the Lake Elberta project

Mention in next newsletter to raise funds

* + - Sarah C also mentioned potential volunteers for workdays and projects via the Global Peace Exchange group at FSU, of which she is a co-director

*Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI)*

* FSU has two potential mentee candidates
* Donna and Heather have signed up as mentors

*Program meetings*

* September – Doug Tallamy webinar
  + Advertise through social media and send to listserv
    - Kathleen to look into emailing listserv
    - Social media posts once a week, then two days before, then day before
  + People must register in advance
* October 15 – David Jones with Florida Disabled Outdoors Association
  + Flexible and open to speaking with audience members
  + Run through test with board members
* November – J Drew Lanham video probably won’t be ready in time because National Audubon wants to edit it
  + Pete’s eBird webinar to potentially replace
  + Discuss with Ben

*Virtual tour of Rob William’s yard*

* Dara and Pete practicing zoom with Sierra Club field trip
* Pre-record, then have live event with panelists in attendance for live Q&A

*Conservation*

* M-cores toll road update – Pete
  + Increasing opportunities to participate in person (lots of technical difficulties with online participation thus far)
    - Work on organizing volunteers
    - Potential sub-committee?
    - In-person events in Levy, Taylor, and Dixie counties
    - Pete to add dates in upcoming newsletter
* St. Teresa Bluffs – Rob
  + State acquired 17,000 acres W of Bald Point SP to Ochlocknee SP
    - Who is going to manage it now that state owns it?
      * Forest Service wants to manage whole property, Parks Service wants to create a new SP to join the two parks and would be along N edge of prop, or S coastline of Ochlocknee Bay
      * We want it to be a SP, so we should try to be involved in the process
        + Julie Wraithmell already involved
* Blueprint
  + No new updates
  + Normal Skaggs is taking lead, Dara, Donna, Jody, Natasza, and Pete involved
  + Possibly have an independent meeting?
* Project 4Forty – Envision property live oak
  + Donna, Jody, David Arnold, and Stan Rosenthal have sent comments
  + Want AAS to work with initiative
  + More updates to come
* Jim Stevenson and Leon CO invasive species ordinance
  + Requesting that we support the ordinance
  + Ordinance prevents neighbors from planting class 1 invasive plants along property lines
  + Amendments:
    - Add more plants to list
    - Rewrite to make it more specific
      * How is this going to be enforced? Propagation versus planting?
      * Rob going to do research into what other jurisdictions have done and perhaps broaden the ordinance to create an invasive species ordinance that will be effective

*Misc*

* Big thank you to Howard for letting us store AAS things at his house
* Next board meeting will tentatively be October 14
  + Amelia to send out Doodle poll to see if there is a better date
* Next Pines to Palms meeting will be October 14, before board meeting
* Big Bend Environmental Forum is October 8, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

*Meeting adjourned*