Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 11-10-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

In attendance: Kathleen Carr, Donna Legare, Dara Wilson, Harvey Goldman, Peter Kleinhenz, Heather Levy, Nelson Ball, Norma Skaggs, Rob Williams, Tallulah Biletzskov, Cierra Nelson, Caleb Crow

* Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.
* Minutes from October 2021 Board Meeting were approved after some minor changes
  + Nelson will send minutes to Elizabeth
* Membership—Kathleen
  + Current chapter membership is 879 as of October 31, 2021.
    - Up 3 members since September
    - 21 expired 3 months ago, will be deleted
    - 5 new members
    - 7 rejoins
    - 26 renewals
* Two votes for expenditures
  + David Arnold, request for travel support
    - Donna spoke to David, here are some details:
      * FWC says they will have either 4 or 6 meetings in the first year, but it is yet to be determined. Some may be in Tallahassee.
      * First meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11/17 in Daytona
      * David will keep the AAS Board informed and would like feedback on the topic
      * David has been working on a pre-working group questionnaire.
    - Donna moved, via email, to reimburse David Arnold for up to 4 hotel stays this fiscal year to support his service on the FWC Working Group to advise the agency on addressing non-native wildlife.
    - Vote passed. AAS will provide David with funds for hotel rooms.
  + Vote to authorize $200 payment to Jim Brady, our Regional Conservation Committee Chair.
    - Jim did not need compensation last year because covid restricted traveling. This year he will be traveling to some state RCC/BOD meetings and is asking AAS for helping with gas money. AAS has historically provided $200/year to the RCC Chair for travel.
    - Vote passes. AAS will provide Jim with gas money for travel.
* Spring Special Speaker program
  + Noah Strycker - <https://noahstrycker.com/about/birdboy/>
  + Our event day would be Monday, April 4th
  + Do we want to recruit and pay for Noah Strycker to come to our Tallahassee after he’s finished with events in the panhandle? Ideas for what we can do.
    - We need to discuss this further before we spend the money to have Noah visit us—ad hoc committee to brainstorm some ideas and bring them back to the group
    - Possible educational event for children—high chance of being cancelled due to covid
    - Birdathon field trip?
      * Peter remind us that Noah is known to be an excellent birder
      * We might set up several sites where he would stop and bird with people
        + People may stay at one location or travel from site to site with him
* Treasurer’s Report—Harvey
  + Current balance $24,263.51 as of 11/8/21
* FLEDJE (Future Leaders for Equity, Diversity, and Justice in the Environment) Training Report—Tallulah and Howard
  + First meeting has taken place to introduce FLEDJE plan and meet with partner –Orange Audubon
  + Another meeting coming up and they will report back next month since there will be more to share
* Program Committee—Norma
  + Setting up for in person programs starting in January.
    - FSU has resumed everything so we can likely meet at King building again
    - We should still stream live on Facebook and/or Youtube for those that would like that
  + Norma sent notice to the newspaper for our programs
  + Kathleen will be out of town leading up to the program
    - Tallulah can take lead. Dara may be able to help but schedule is uncertain at this time.
    - Heather can provide backup for Tallulah
  + Dara suggests we all train and learn how to conduct the technical things and programs in general
    - Everyone on the Board is welcome to sit in and learn
  + Peter and Heather can help monitor the chats during the programs
  + National Audubon has interesting upcoming events
    - Recorded if we can’t make the program
* Communications Committee—Dara
  + Google Calendar
    - Please keep all of our events on the AAS calendar
  + Google Drive
    - AAS Google Drive folders can be shared amongst all AAS Board members so we can collaborate on items and share documents
    - Each committee can have a folder to keep things organized
    - Audubon Works may have a good organizing strategy for chapters that are using Google Drive
  + Tallulah and Dara have been meeting and doing a lot for the AAS social media accounts
    - Tallulah has been helping a lot and is working to sort out an online archive of our programs for us
  + Adding info for our social media accounts to our emails
    - Youtube and Instagram are currently not on our emails
    - Donna says Elizabeth can probably help us since she does stuff for Native Nurseries
* Education Committee—Donna
  + Cierra's bluebird nest box project at Joe Budd.
    - Dara is mentoring Cierra for the CLI program!
    - Birding trail for kids to visit
    - Cierra has had meetings with Joe Budd officials and made a plan
    - On Saturday the FAMU group will help build the nest boxes to be put out soon
      * Jody is hosting the workshop
    - Goal is to have the kids out by mid-semester
    - Native Nurseries is providing the wood, Joe Budd is providing predator guards, poles are TBD
  + Chimney Swift tower update
    - Weather postponed the installation last week
    - Installation date is TBA – depends on when Native Nurseries trucks are available
      * Hopefully within next 2 weeks
    - Ann Morrow is helping to design the sign
      * Ann visited the park with Donna
      * Peter reminds Donna to have the person at sign company to use our same template
    - Natasza has agreed to do artwork on the outside of the tower
    - Donna is keeping a running list of donors that have helped make this possible
  + Pineview Elementary donation of bird seed and cleaning their feeders.
    - Donna has cleaned the feeders
    - AAS has bought seed from Native Nurseries
      * Donna hopes to continue to provide seed
    - Karen Kimmel sent us a thank you for donating these to the students
    - Possible that we may restart our after school program in January
* FieldTrip Committee—Heather
  + Saturday 11/13 to Lost Creek Forest with Red Hills Birding Club
    - Participant list is full at 16
    - Peter asks that participants take a lot of photos for use in discussions with the local gov’t
  + Dec 4th – Birding social at Ochlockonee State Park
    - Details were sent to Elizabeth for website
  + Dec 12th – banding winter sparrow demonstration at Tall Timbers
    - 8am-noon
    - Limited to 12 people, must be vaccinated
    - Wagon tour of Tall Timbers is likely
    - Details also on website
  + Recent birding social went very well
  + Lights Out program—
    - Dead bird collection for data is very labor intensive
    - Tropical Audubon is doing info drive
      * AAS should probably go this direction, as well
  + AAS Conservation Grant
    - Start small and infrequent
      * Ramp up if demand is there
* Conservation Committee—Peter
  + Dec 9th & 10th – Florida Forever Acquisition and Restoration Council meeting
    - In person at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building (3900 Commonwealth Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32399) or via Zoom
      * Address and registration link for Zoom here:
        + https://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/30950-acquisition-and-restoration-council
    - Speakers in support of local projects: Foshalee Slough, Aucilla Corridor
  + Donna asks about Woodville fish farm progress
    - Norma says she has seen some recent activity at the site, but not sure what is going on
* Additional Items
  + Sign for bat house
    - Draft of content is almost done
    - City tried to push back on statement about insects, but has backed off
  + Possible cleanup/invasive removal day at Lake Elberta Park in November
    - Contact other groups
    - Donna brings up the point that City of Tallahassee and FSU’s Environmental Service Program typically operate on different days—ESP volunteers on Saturdays
    - Cierra says FAMU Outdoor Club does their events on Saturday and would likely be interested!
  + Share our programs and events on social media!!!