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!!!