

Peace River Audubon Society  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
First Alliance Church, Port Charlotte, FL  
October 8, 2015

**Members Present:** Larry Behrens, Jim Comfort, Mike Krzyzkowski, Michelle Kloese, Jim Knoy, Penny Lowery, George Ruby, Jerry Waters, and Linda Waters

Mike Krzyzkowski opened the meeting. Both the agenda and past meeting minutes were approved. The treasures report was given by Jim Comfort.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **4. Banquet:**

There was a change of date for the banquet from March 17, 2016 to March 24, 2016. Thomas Hecker will be the speaker on March 24th, and Twin Isles was confirmed for that date as well. There was discussion regarding the need for the banquet committee to meet soon. There are five members on the committee currently, although we would like to see that committee with eight members. Patty will try to recruit new members.

##### **5. Website Status:**

Mike corresponded with Elsa Thompson, a key person at Bird Watchers Digest, in order for our membership to be reestablished. PRAS will place articles from the Bird Watches digest on the PRAS website with proper recognition of the source. Jim Knoy will add approximately one article per month on the website.

##### **6. Scholarship Fund:**

Bob winter requested applications to pass on to the STEM coordinator at Lemon Bay High School. Michelle and Linda made some progress with the scholarship, but unfortunately they were not able to secure any applicants. Michelle and Linda both posted information about the scholarship on Facebook and Twitter and asked teachers to share the information. Michelle worked with the Career Counselor at Port Charlotte High School by providing the link for the scholarship along with a link to the application. She plans to do the same with Charlotte High's Career Counselor in hopes they can connect with past graduates or current high school seniors who will graduate with nearly enough college credits to be college juniors. The efforts need to continue with colleges and universities. Gregg should already have a handle on the universities.

##### **7. Banquet Proceeds:**

\$3500 has been sent to CHEC. This money will be used to provide all second graders in Charlotte County Public Schools the opportunity to go on wading trip. An additional \$2000 will be used for PRAS educational purposes. Michelle and Larry both have preliminary ideas and will develop a list of ideas to share with the Board. Ideas include using the money for member/adult education, education for children, buying more binoculars, etc.

##### **8. Revision of PRAS Logo:**

Louise and Penny each submitted designs to be considered for the new logo. The Board had the opportunity to view the concepts in both color and grayscale. Board members wrote their comments on a form to provide feedback on the four designs. The board narrowed down the four logos to two logos.

Penny will send digital images to board members that were out of town. The Board agreed that we want transparency for our members. After much discussion, it was decided that the two logos will be displayed at the members meeting to allow for membership comments on the concepts. Penny will enlarge the logos in color to display at meeting (possibly next week or the November meeting). A comment sheet will be provided to the members at the meeting to obtain feedback regarding each of the logos. The comment sheet will be a half sheet of paper containing the logos in grayscale and lines below the logos. Penny will make approximately 70 comment sheets. After members provide feedback, George Ruby will collate the responses and bring them back to the next board meeting and email a summary of the comments prior to the board meeting. It will be announced at the beginning of the member meeting that PRAS is changing the logo. PRAS will honor Bob Elliott as the creator of the original logo. Mike will ask Eleanor to write a bio of Bob Elliott to be read by Mike during the housekeeping portion of the member meeting.

#### **9. Photo Contest:**

No changes

#### **10. Security at Audubon Pennington Park:**

Larry called the sheriff regarding the security issues at Pennington Park. He was referred to Dale Phillips in community relations. Ideas to improve security of the park were discussed and includes ideas such as neighborhood watch or posting a phone number in the park for people to call if they notice any issues. Larry will send an email with specifics about the problems at the park. It will be brought up at the next sheriff meeting and Larry may be invited to attend. On another note, the beetles for the air potato plants are working well at Pennington. Beetles seem to be eating through the leaves in nearby neighborhoods as well. People interested in purchasing beetles on own will be able to request a contact from Larry.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **11. Nature Festival:**

The Nature Festival will take place on 11/21/15. Mike gave a \$100 donation to secure a table for PRAS at the event. Larry will find volunteers for the event and begin preparation. We may look to donate more if PRAS can secure a better table location.

#### **12. Free App:**

Chris Duke developed a birding app and is need of beta testers involved with the Audubon. KEA is name of app for iPhone. Jim Knoy will put the information on Facebook for members that may be interested in becoming a beta tester. Interested members can email [keabirdlearning.info@gmail.com](mailto:keabirdlearning.info@gmail.com).

#### **13. General Meeting:**

A wish list has been published for members to bring donations for the PRWC as they will be presenting at the next member meeting. Members are encouraged to bring items to the meeting.

#### **Committee Updates:**

Jim Knoy provided updates from the Audubon Regional Conservation Committee. The committee looked at priorities to send to state assembly. Jim will mention this to the membership.

Programs: If a member has as recommendation for a good speaker for a membership meeting, please send Mike the speaker's name, email, phone number, and topic. Some suggestions from board members were Salt Springs, SWFWMD, and Shell Creek.

Education: There was some discussion about educational conferences.

CHEC: There was some discussion about the bird blind possibly attaching a chain on the binoculars there. There were also some old binoculars at CHEC that we may be able to add to the bird blind. Penny was asked to send photos of the bird blind committee.

Equipment: There was some discussion regarding the items that are stored at CHEC.

**Next General Meeting: 10/15/15**

**Next Board Meeting: 11/12/15**