

Peace River Audubon Society Board Meeting
11/8/18

The following board members in attendance included: Sandy Artman, Julie Black, Brenda Curtis, Michelle Kloese, Mike Krzyzkowski, Cindy Macri, Ron Mills, Barb Taylor, and Publicity Chair, Sue Galvin.

Pete Quasius from Audubon of Southwest Florida addressed the board concerning a couple of issues:

- 1) Everglades Coalition: \$25/year commitment to promote issues important to our area. Many Sierra & Audubon groups are part of this organization. Ron moved to fill out application with Mike K as representative and Brenda C as alternate. Board approved moving forward.
- 2) Board supported Pete Quasius to represent our Audubon group among others as lobbyist for Audubon Conservation Priorities to prioritize projects, continue funding with authorized projects, and Florida Forever advocate.
- 3) Steve Bredzinski represents Florida Audubon Board from our area and Pete suggested donations to cover his fee. We will discuss as part of our board meeting agenda.
- 4) Babcock would like help with the bird count in their area on Jan. 5th. Would we like to support this with Pete as coordinator?

Mike's agenda for this board meeting was approved with addition of discussion about scholarships & covering fee for Steve B. Ron M moved for approval of the minutes from the last board meeting. Sandy's treasurer report also was approved. Sandy remarked that \$ from honorarium for the speaker from last month's meeting was returned as FWC employees cannot accept monetary gifts. A thank you note will be sent to Sara Peltier in lieu of donation. Ron Mills asked for funding for banner printing which had been previously allocated by the board. The banner will be ordered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Young Birder's Club: Michelle K will have meeting over her winter break and put into place some of the list of ideas suggested. Brenda C loaned Michelle some materials from the Venice Audubon program.

Bird Blind: Mike K reported that the bird blind at CHEC up and running, no squirrels. CHEC will provide some binoculars with short focal length to replace the ones previously in the blind.

Website: Sue G remarked that the Facebook feed on the website difficult to read. She remarked that Dr. Brand will speak about water quality/ red tide at Sierra Club on Tues. at 6:00. Will look into the free advertising in Harbor Style magazine. Great response to all the publicity!

Pennington: Cindy reported the park has been vandalized with damage to fencing and the bench. Rhonda from Keep Charlotte Beautiful was contacted. No bats in box yet!

Nature Festival: Still need volunteers, will ask at meeting. Brenda C and Mike K will help Larry B.

Audubon Assembly:

Mike K & Brenda C attended and shared some insight. Brenda C mentored a college student and observed 41 bird species on a field trip. Mike K shared some scientific facts about blue-green algae.

Banquet:

Julie B shared that the reservations have been made for the banquet at Twin Isles Country Club. Pricing will be similar to last year. Discussion about the silent auction portion led the board to ok trying a couple of large raffle packages this year instead which will be much easier to deal with. Sandy A agreed to work on raffle. A banquet committee will continue with plans.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas Bird Count: Tony Licata will be out of town until end of November so will announce the need for help counting at the upcoming meeting.

Mike suggested all of us to look at the free software program for the Young Birder's program by Pete Thayer.

Cindy M shared that the PRWC field trip led by Shannon & Nancy was

well attended and the facility promoted education about their birds. The board voted to send a \$100 donation in thanks for their help.

Mike K suggested that we fund Steve Bredniski for the FL Audubon Board with a donation of \$250. Barb T made motion which was approved by the board.

Brenda C moved to give membership to PRAS to the student who she mentored at Audubon Assembly. This was approved by the board.

The board agreed to help with the bird count on the Footprint property at Babcock on Jan. 5th.

The meeting was adjourned by Mike K.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Black
Secretary, Peace River Audubon Society