The meeting was opened by president, Mike K. The following board members were present: Sandy Artman, Julie Black, Brenda Curtis, Michelle Kloese, Mike Krzyzkowski, Cindy Macri, Eleanor Marr, Ron Mills, Bard Taylor, and Nancy Turner. Sue Galvin, Publicity chair also attended plus a new PRAS member, Rob Mills.

The meeting agenda was approved and the minutes were approved as corrected with the addition of the monetary amount funded for the birdfeeder project.

Sandy A's treasurer report was approved and Sandy requested to change the line title on the budget from Audubon Assembly to conferences to cover any type of assemblies such as the Everglades Coalition. The board agreed with this motion.

OLD BUSINESS:
Young Birder's Club: will be tabled until summer

Website: Discussed re-sharing events on Facebook so will appear at the top of the page. Also can add to Punta Gorda Facebook events page. Most board members do not use website.

Pennington: Cindy M reported some vandalism with the bike rack which has now been cemented in place. Rob Mills has added many new plants at park. Rob shared his interest in looking into grant money to purchase plants that would be food sources for butterflies and gopher tortoises. A grant through The Association for Butterflies will match funds with amount raised by member effort such as a garage sale. A motion was made in support of Rob applying for this grant (deadline 2/28) in an amount of $500 with PRAS members hosting a garage sale at the park on April 20th. The board approved the motion. An announcement will be made at the upcoming meeting to prepare for the sale.

Banquet: Sandy A shared raffle donations received so far (6
restaurants, 6 entertainment certificates, 5-6 golf course certificates) and reported many requests made which she hopes to hear from soon. Once donations in, the packages will be divided into groups. Sue G will order raffle tickets with 25 of the same number which will be much easier than individual numbers. Banquet info is now on website and Facebook and has been sent to newspaper. Reservations will be made at the upcoming meeting or can be made by mailing check.

Scholarship Committee: Michelle K reported for Greg Klowden that no applications had been received by the February 1st deadline so that will be extended to March 1st.

Bluebird Trail: Mike K shared a bluebird trail update with a target date of Dec. 2019 to place boxes. Dave Lancaster and Brenda Curtis have offered to assist with this project. Mike picked up some cedar wood and will make a box for our banquet donations.

Conservation: Brenda C gave additional information about the Everglades Coalition Conference attendees which included many out of state representatives, congressmen, etc. so a very knowledgeable and affluent group. Brenda was optimistic about the enthusiasm, interest, and energy in discussing all the environmental problems.

Ron Mills spoke at the Port Charlotte library on 2/8/19 for the “Love Your Community Event”. Ron had a small, but interested group to present to but the event was running behind schedule.

Still looking for CHEC BOD participant from PRAS. Will continue to ask at general meeting for volunteer.

Nominating committee: Mike K requested any board members who are not continuing next year to please let him know. Eleanor Marr will be going off board.

NEW BUSINESS:
Reporting for Phyllis Cady, Mike brought up discussion of having different levels of PRAS membership to ease the job of the membership chair as currently sending out dues reminders annually
at all times of the year. The board made a motion to allow $20/year, $50/3 years, and a $250 lifetime membership with the renewal year to be in September for all members. This will be relayed to Phyllis for final approval.

The meeting was closed by Mike K.

Julie Black
PRAS Secretary