The meeting was called to order by Ron Mills, president with the following additional board members in attendance: Sandy Artman, Julie Black, Vicki Carpenter, Brenda Curtis, Anne Fillion, Cindy Macri, Rob Mills, Mike Krzyzkowski, Barb Taylor, and Nancy Turner. Also, Kerry Bowers, CHEC Rep and Phyllis Cady, Membership chair attended. One guest, Edie Driest was present.

The meeting agenda with addition of Giving Challenge, the minutes from the 10/10/19 BOD meeting, Treasurer's report and membership report was approved by the board with the motion made by Vicki C and seconded by Cindy M.

OLD BUSINESS:
Assembly Report: Brenda C shared highlights of Audubon Assembly: she saw 50 birds kayaking, has new mentee studying at FGCU (now PRAS member), commented about declining status of birds, was impressed with Gainesville promoted as birding spot, and remarked about National Audubon encouraging campus programs to increase young members.

Master Gardener Conference Report: Rob M able to speak at event after all and he networked with other FL Friendly coordinators.

Committee Reports: Ron M suggested about two minute reports from committees to keep the meeting at a reasonable length of time. Can e-mail if more needs to be shared.

Membership: Phyllis C reported 113 local members, 58% already paid, and most important goal is to sell our group by welcoming visitors and communicating through Facebook, etc.

Bird Blind: Mike K relayed that raccoons are a problem at the blind, but put up aluminum flashing on trees so at this point that has helped. Unable to play back file on trail camera as file too large. Pump has been replaced. Mike gave Sandy A receipts for repair for approximately $100.

Bluebird Trail- Mike completed 6 cedar bluebird boxes plus Dan has another six. Anyone can get involved in the monitoring process. Mike spent $78 for
supplies.

Pennington Park: Cindi M remarked that less trash has been seen at the park, air potato plants dying out, and still waiting to hear about fake camera.

Conservation: Brenda C highlighted current local issues including pesticides in water, sand restoration on beaches, funding for Everglades Coalition, Charlotte County vision stressing water quality, toll road environmental concerns, etc. Thanks for supporting Charlotte Flatwoods project with signatures.

CHEC: Kerry B shared that Mosaic made a presentation at CHEC meeting. Kerry will represent her view. Harvest on the Harbor is the main fundraiser for CHEC. People Protecting the Peace River (PPPR) meets on the 23rd.

Banquet: Julie B reported that the date has been reserved at Twin Isles for the annual PRAS banquet. Will firm plans with pricing in the next month. Plan to follow a similar format to last year.

Programs/Field Trips: All set for this year. If anyone has contacts for additional speakers, please contact Mike K. Phyllis C recommended someone who is great with bird ID.

Giving Challenge: Sandy A said that new passwords will be issued and updated information will be accepted on website. The dates for the Giving Challenge will be April 28-29, 2020. Orientation in January. Hopefully will be able to pay on Facebook and with card readers. Will look into those.

NEW BUSINESS:
Nature Festival: All set for Sat., Nov. 16th with many volunteers.

Birder's ID Workshop: Brenda C confirmed workshop on Dec. 7th 10-11am at Mid County Library, panel will focus on ID for e-bird, Backyard, and Christmas Bird Count. These are crucial for information on bird migration.

Scrub Jay Yard Certification: Edie DRIEST with North Port Friends of Wildlife spoke about working together to protect scrub jay habitat. Workshop on Feb. 1 & 15 for those with jays in their area. Promoting stepping stones for the scrub jay in residential and undeveloped areas. Ron M thanked Edie for her decorated birdhouse- will raffle at Nature Festival.
Marketing/Fundraising: This committee has not met yet.

Barb T brought up and board discussed having speakers share about birding not in our area. Board decided a few programs/ year would be acceptable.

The meeting was closed by Ron Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Black
PRAS Secretary