Peace River Audubon Society
Board Meeting Minutes for 2/13/2020
First Alliance Church outdoor tables

The meeting was called to order by president Ron Mills. The following board members responded to roll call: Sandy Artman, Julie Black, Brenda Curtis, Cindi Macri, Rob Mills, Ron Mills, Barb Taylor, and Nancy Turner. Sue Galvin, Publicity chair also in attendance.

The meeting agenda, minutes from the January board meeting, and the treasurer's report were approved. Membership report not updated at this time as Phyllis out of town.

OLD BUSINESS:
Photo Contest: Brenda brought 3 colored ballot boxes to clarify that ballots are placed (1 for each person) for the correct contest. Photos should be brought between 5:30 and 6:15 (6:30 at latest) and voting will end at 7pm when the meeting begins. Discussed set up of tables around edge of room plus table for signing up & paying for contest entrance. Brenda will place photos so contestants won't be placing own photos. Ron M suggested paying church $25 for set up of all the extra tables for this meeting. The photo contest info has been shared at the last meeting plus on website & FaceBook.

Banquet: Ron M shared that he has a musician group (steel drums included) available and will ask if they will provide a PA for the event that we could pay $200 for their performance & the PA. Twin Isles PA system not adequate. Board agreed. Ron will offer five winners for the "Birder's Brunch" this year and was suggested a date to be set prior to raffle. Julie B passed out registration/info forms and flyers to the board. Tickets will be $38 as the meal price increased at Twin Isles. Have volunteers for helping at the banquet. Ron M offered to emcee. Raffle donations coming in, probably about 25 which is similar to last year. Sandy has raffle baskets and Sue G has tickets leftover. Julie and Sandy will run registration at the February general meeting. Information on website, FaceBook, and Sue will take care of publicity in the paper.

Giving Challenge: Dates are April 28-29, 2020 and our info has been
Committee Reports:
Publicity: Sue G suggested updates for website, including donation portion, scholarship info, etc. Rob M also agreed lots of outdated info/links. Sue said Kalindi is willing to update but we need to give her the corrected information.

Audubon-Pennington Park: Rob M and Cindy M remarked that less trash and vandalism observed, repeat visitors seen. Should have more info easily available on our website about the park.

Bird Blind: Cindy reported no raccoon observations so flashing working at this point!

Conservation: Brenda shared that we should be conservation advocates and also more website presence would be a plus so easier to find on site. Discussed emailing newsletter with information.

CHEC: Kerry B remarked that a speaker from the Center of Biological Diversity spoke on phosphate mining and this group has grants available, not connected with Mosaic. A fund raiser run was held at CHEC.

Bluebird Trail: According to Ron M, Pete Quasius has obtained permission to put bluebird boxes at Babcock.

FPL Grant: Rob M brought samples of the three sizes of yard signs for those completing yard certification. Rob discussed the various places already receiving their certification including the Elsie Quirk library, Steve and Olivia Scott, and some others working on their gardens. Some just needed the water source such as bird bath. A discussion concerning helping with obtaining birds baths was discussed. Would depend on business or individual? Could be recognized with PRAS nameplate if donating bird bath. Julie B had a contact who may be willing to donate bird baths- she will give contact info to Rob. The grant $ needs to be spent by end of April. Will use some for plant ID signage at park also.
Bird-a-Thon: Ron M approached Dave Lancaster about opening up the Bird-a-Thon as fundraiser with more participants but did not seem very receptive to idea, not really just an Audubon event.

NEW BUSINESS:
Scholarship: According to Cindy M, Greg K updated application deadline to March 15th and requested applicants to be local High School graduates from the surrounding seven counties. May reduce applicants but more ties to our area. Since not much time, board agreed to go ahead with this. Interest was expressed to spend more $ on scholarship awards not just the interest from the scholarship account.

Nominations: Ron M asked for any volunteers for nominations for upcoming board, maybe Mike K and Phyllis C?

Backyard Bird Count starts on February 14, 2020.

Meeting adjourned by Ron Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Black, PRAS Secretary