PRAS BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2022

The virtual meeting was called to order by Co-President, Mike Krzyzkowski at 7:05 pm. The following board members were also present on Zoom: Brenda Curtis, Vikki Carpenter, Sandy Artman, Rob Mills, Phyllis Cady, Sandra Kaiser, Kerry Bowers, Pete Quasius, and Sue French.

Roll call indicated a quorum was present for the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded and the January 11, 2022 Agenda was approved.

Vikki Carpenter, Secretary, opened the discussion of the December 14, 2021 minutes which had previously been sent to the Board. Board members were in consensus that the 2022 PRAS budget had been approved at the December meeting. A motion was made and seconded to amend the December 14, 2021 meeting to show Board approval of the budget. Vikki agreed to amend the minutes and send to the Board members.

Sandy Artman, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s report. Sandy commented that she had moved the plants for birds grant money to its own line item. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s report.

OLD BUSSINESS:

CHEC Blind Update - Mike K. said he had received an email from Mike Bednar, CEO of CHEC, which he forwarded to the Board. The Blind is still pending receipt and installation.

Zoom Issues- Mike reported that there is limited space on zoom to store meetings. Additional gigabyte storage will cost $40. Mike has already deleted some data to free up storage. It was noted that PRAS Board meetings are not recorded. Mike recommended that general PRAS meetings be recorded and available for 21 days and then deleted. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Mike’s recommendation for storage and deletion.

Giving Challenge 2022/Budget Review- Sandy and Rob both stated they have been making changes to PRAS’ online profile at the request of the giving partner’s (Sarasota Community Foundation) review in preparation for the giving challenge application. One recommendation from the reviewer was to include measurements of success for PRAS projects. This can include comments/reviews from visitors to Pennington Audobon Park (via google) and possibly a sign-in log at the new bird blind at CHEC. PRAS will need to narrow down projects, programs and funding needs. The application deadline is in February.

Finance Committee/Budget suggestions- No report at this time. It was decided that this item would be tabled to allow the committee to discuss long-term recommendations for PRAS funds.

Scrub Jay for FL State Bird/Environmental Conservatory of Northport- Brenda and Pete both commented that the Conservatory request did not present a solid management plan at this time. They suggested PRAS support an ongoing plan for Scrub Jay conservation that ties into a countywide plan. Brenda will do more research on the subject and the “stepping stone” approach. Brenda will write to Edie Driest from the Conservatory with our comments. Rob M. will also contact Edie with information on a private land investor interested in Scrub Jay habitat preservation.
Bylaws Committee Update- Phyllis stated that PRAS members were informed to provide comments by January 15, 2022. The Board can vote on the changes at the February 8th meeting.

Nominating Committee- Pete has reached out to Board members for the upcoming 2022 election of officers. Rob Mills has confirmed that he would be interested in the position of President. The nominating committee will put together a proposed slate of officers for a vote at the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Website Security Issue- Phyllis confirmed that Kalindi has fixed the security issue that had been raised by a PRAS member. There is still more to do to update the PRAS website. A $99 license fee is required to address some of the updates. Consensus of the Board was to pursue the updates. The updates will also make the website more user friendly for mobile phone users. Board members asked what the charge would be for Kalindi to make the changes. Phyllis did not yet know but expected to have costs by the February Board meeting. Phyllis and Sandra continue to encourage Kalindi to bill PRAS more regularly for her website work.

Additional comments -

Mike said that Toby Mills had contacted him to see if a memorial get-together for Ron Mills was being planned at the Navigator restaurant as previously discussed. Toby has some T-shirts that are available as give aways at the event. The Board discussed that PRAS still would like to hold the event but will wait to plan for it after the pandemic.

Mike also wanted to recognize Brenda Curtis for doing a great job on the newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance- No report

Membership- Phyllis C. said membership is fine. She also mentioned that Paul Holmes passed away. He had been the President of PRAS around 15 years ago.

Conservation- Brenda high-lighted some of the topics from her report that she had sent to the Board. Brenda said the Everglades Coalition meeting was well done with virtual options. She also mentioned: 1. Lloyd Miller award was given out. 2. Key Deer presentation was excellent. 3. Oil drilling at Big Cypress and conservation projects was informative. Several projects are ready to go and awaiting approval in Washington.

Programs- Based on the Board’s decision in December, Mike contacted the upcoming speakers for the general meetings and asked if they would provide their presentations via zoom until regular meetings were resumed. In lieu of his scheduled presentation in January, Tony Licata will provide his data from the Christmas Bird Count to Phyllis to post through our website and other social media outlets.

Field Trips- Rob M. said the field trip to Ollie’s Pond on January 1st had a good turnout. They saw lots of birds. Guide, Dave Lancaster, had a scope to look through.

The next field trip to Oscar Scherer Park is scheduled in 2 weeks. It was decided by the Board to cancel this trip due to the increase in Covid 19 cases. It was also decided to cancel the February walkabout. PRAS will re-evaluate field trips on a month-to-month basis.
Phyllis will provide media notification on the cancellations.

**Publicity**- No report

**Education**- No report

**Birdathon**- No report

**Christmas Bird Count** – Tony Licata will provide data to share in January.

**Audubon Pennington Park**- Rob reported that the recent wind storm made a mess in the park with downed debris. Rob and Larry Lyn cleared out some trails and invasive trees including Carrotwoods and Brazilian Peppers. There are other trails that need to be weeded out and trees harvested.

**Banquet**- Sandra K. said that all media outlets have been notified of the cancellation of the PRAS banquet fundraiser originally scheduled for March 24, 2022. The $100. deposit has been received back from Twin Isles Country Club.

**CHEC**- Kerry B. announced the next bi-monthly meeting of CHEC Board is next Tuesday. There will be a 5K fundraiser run in the future.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Vikki C. reiterated that she would send the December 14, 2021 amended PRAS minutes to all Board Directors.

Mike announced that the next regular PRAS Board meeting will be on February 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm via zoom.

After no further discussion, Co- President Mike Krzyzkowski adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki Carpenter, Secretary