Apalachee Audubon Board Meeting Minutes 4-6-2021

Submitted by Nelson Ball, Secretary

In attendance: Donna Legare, Kathleen Carr, Caleb Crow, Amelia Fusaro, Harvey Goldman, Peter Goren, Peter Kleinhenz, Cierra Nelson, Liz Schold, Heather Levy, Nelson Ball, Dara Wilson, Norma Skaggs, Chase Brestle

* Donna introduced Caleb Crow, Board nominee
	+ Reminder: we all have his letter from last month that tells of his experience and passion
	+ Caleb says hello and gives us a little bit of his background
* Donna introduced Cierra Nelson, our intern from FAMU
	+ We will hear more from her later this meeting
* Minutes from March meeting were approved
	+ Nelson will send to Elizabeth to post on the website
* Harvey emailed out a treasurer’s report
	+ 3/15/21 Zoom charged $119
		- This is billed to us monthly
		- We will upgrade for upcoming Programs, but likely downgrade account over the summer to save money
	+ 3/19/21 NAS paid $230
		- This is for 3rd and 4th quarter incentive payments
	+ Current balance in bank account is almost $23,000.00
	+ Treasurer’s report approved.
* Change to our mission statement
	+ Proposed verbiage is “Protecting the rich biodiversity of the Florida Panhandle through education, appreciation and conservation.”
	+ Discussion—since it is not in our bylaws, we don’t need to put it to a vote by the membership
	+ Board unanimously voted in favor of changing the mission statement
* Nominations
	+ Proposed slate, so far
		- President: Kathleen Carr
		- Vice President: **VACANT**
		- Secretary: Nelson Ball
		- Treasurer: Harvey Goldman
		- New nominee: Caleb Crow
	+ Renewing nominees:
		- Donna Legare – Past President, Environmental Education Committee
		- Dara Wilson – Communications Chair
		- Peter Kleinhenz – Conservation Chair
		- Rob Williams – Conservation Committee
		- Howard Kessler
		- Amelia Fusaro – may have to vacate this summer
	+ The following directors will be continuing their second year of service and do not need to be on ballot:
		- Natasza Fontaine – will volunteer for bird walks and nature/art events
		- Heather Levy – Field Trip Chair
		- Norma Skaggs – Program Chair (was Blueprint Chair, but we may rearrange and absorb that into Conservation—to discuss further at our retreat)
	+ Amelia and Pete know somebody that may join. Pete is going to contact.
	+ Bill Everett will create the ballot and Kathleen will get the membership list together and will send the email.
* Communication
	+ April Newsletter should be out early in the month.
		- Donna may need help with the May newsletter as she is out of town
			* Pete will assist Donna
	+ Tallahassee Democrat – Donna will submit a press release for our April program
* Environmental Education
	+ March – Mark Tancig
		- Thank you to Peter Goren for arranging a great program
		- Thank you to Dara for great work on technical side
		- 119 attendees, 2574 page visits
	+ April – Nicole Jackson
		- Info is up on the website and will appear in our newsletter
		- Dara’s writeup should be in the Tallahassee Democrat
		- Please promote on social media!
		- Cierra will promote at FAMU
		- Nelson will get word to ESP
		- Audubon FL asked if they can stream the program
			* Kathleen will make sure they have our Zoom link to share on social media
		- Pete will share with media list
		- Amelia will also help get the word out
	+ May –Jeff VanderMeer
		- Dara has a newer graphic on the website
		- Donna will do press release in Tallahassee Democrat
	+ May field trip –Deep Roots Meat
		- Peter Kelly reports that 10 people have signed up by the 3/31 deadline—registrations are full!
			* We will not be promoting in April or May newsletter since it is full, but if people see it on the website they can contact Peter Kelly about getting on a waiting list for a future visit
	+ 3/27 Lake Elberta Trash Cleanup – Cierra gives us the scoop!
		- Very successful! – 38 attendees, 37 bags of trash
		- Great weather
		- Volunteers from FAMU, FSU, Sail and from our social media outreach
		- Planning on organizing another cleanup in the fall
	+ Sustainability Summit
		- Pete and Dara are leading a bird walk which has filled up already—15 attendees signed up
	+ Carrabelle Library Birding Program—Tails and Tales
		- Asked AAS to conduct a program between June 10-July 29
		- Their hours are Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-2
		- Volunteers can choose their time and coordinate with library
		- Choose to work with kids, families or adults
		- Outdoor birding is possible—library is across from Carrabelle River
		- Nelson and Kathleen are interested in helping, possibly Pete
		- Pete may be able to bring animals for show and tell
		- Weekend preferred for some in order to fit around work schedules
* Conservation Updates
	+ Blueprint - see attached letter in email to Blueprint (Susan Tanski) written after attending Lake Jackson Greenway Virtual Engagement Session in March
	+ Sign-on Letter about Big Cypress Oil Drilling – attached to email
	+ South Walton County mobility plan—see letter that Rob wrote which is attached in recent email
	+ Pete suggests those who want to be more in-the-know about Florida Forever projects, attend the upcoming meeting and/or read documents on this site:
		- https://floridadep.gov/lands/environmental-services/content/florida-forever
	+ Putnam reverter clause vote – Pete refreshes us about what we discussed through email
		- AAS to be named as holder of easement on piece of property in the event that Putnam folds
		- Vote passes unanimously in support of AAS being named in reverter clause
	+ Arbor Day Tallahassee 4/24
		- City will let Pete know details, Pete will let the Board know
* Additional Items
	+ Retreat possibly on June 13th, outside at NN so our ideas are still fresh coming off this year
	+ Kathleen brings up possibly contacting the City about not releasing nuisance outdoor cats that have been trapped and turned in to the shelter
		- Releasing unclaimed cats back into the neighborhood in which they were trapped.
		- One resident, a former chapter member, has approached us about this
		- Heather suggests that we issue a Position Statement like the Florida Ornithological Society has:
			* http://www.fosbirds.org/style/docs/FOSPositionOnOutdoorCats.pdf

**Next meeting – Wednesday, May 12th, 2021. 6:30pm via Zoom**