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**