**LHAS Board Minutes**

**Thursday, 3 March 2022 – Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center**

**Members Present**: Randy W., Donna P., Sharon P., Maria R., Jerry V., Jody M.

**Members Absent**: Jerry P., Dawn S.

**Honored Guests:** Bill Z., Dotty Z., John P., Chuck J., Marla K., Kevin K., Kari S., Rex R., Jan N., Bill H., Bob N., Phyllis N.,

1. Call to order at 6:00 PM – Maria R.
2. Rex R.
   1. Iowa Audubon
      1. Info regarding recent Iowa flat tax and sales tax bills.
      2. Proposed but not voted on yet
      3. Not good for conservation efforts
      4. Trying to make it more difficult for private landowners to promote conservation activities
   2. Programs
      1. April - Jerry P. and Bill H. (Bird Identification)
      2. May - Jerry V.
   3. June- Board Retreat and Potluck?
      1. To be held on Saturday, June 18th?
      2. DPNC is available
      3. Is everyone available to attend?
      4. Do we want a potluck?
      5. Possible 11:00 start?
   4. Future programs – Rex, Randy and others?
      1. Ms. Mehlaff – Randy W.
         1. Teacher at Yankton Middle School
         2. National Park Service experience
         3. Request sent by mail – no response to the invitation as of this meeting.
         4. Unlikely for a program
      2. Ty Smedes – contact by Rex and he will follow up
      3. Kari Sandage – Randy W.
         1. Agreed to a presentation for us
         2. Need to set a date for her presentation
      4. Possible county conservation board session
      5. Mark Haindfield – Suggested by Bill H., will follow up
3. Minutes – Jerry P.
   1. Randy W. filling in for Jerry P. tonight
   2. Nothing communicated regarding any changes or corrections
   3. Motion to approve February minutes by Maria and 2nd by Jody M.
   4. Motion approved
4. Treasurer - Sharon P.
   1. Beginning balance for February 2022: $13,066.80
   2. Deposit (credit):
      1. Memorial donation for Larry Roesler from Steven/Marlys Svendsen - $100.00
      2. Total deposits for February: $100.00
   3. Withdrawals (debits):
      1. Reimbursement to Randy Williams for Square Space Website - $154.08
      2. Pay Pal (Tripod) - $4.95
      3. Total withdrawals for February: $159.03
   4. Ending balance for February 2022: $13,007.77
   5. Motion from Donna P. to accept the report; second by Jody M.
   6. Report approved
5. Report of Mini-Grant Applications- Randy Williams, Dotty Zales and Sharon Polifka.
   1. Summary of committee findings was sent to all board members prior to this meeting.
   2. Six applications received and evaluated
      1. Two were not recommended
         1. Agape Gardens – Shading structure, interpretive signs and water resources
         2. University of South Dakota – producing a computer model of winter bird habitat along the Missouri River.
      2. Four were recommended as follows
         1. Adams Homestead for $1250.00 for a bird identification flip book to be included in visitor center renovation
         2. Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center for $1000.00 for acquisition and placement of a wildlife viewing scope on the nature center patio.
         3. Onawa Public Library for $450.00 for the purchase of native plants for a native plant/pollinator garden on the library grounds.
         4. The Nature Conservancy of Iowa for $1300.00 to be used for the acquisition of the Joy Hollow Girl Scout Camp property for the addition to Broken Kettle Grasslands.
      3. Subsequent discussion among the board of all six applications with pros and cons of all six applications reviewed.
   3. Motion by Donna P. to approve the grant recommendations made by the committee as reviewed above
      1. Second by Jerry V
      2. Motion passes as stated above with one abstain
   4. Letters to be sent to all applicants by Randy W. and Maria R. stating approval or non-approval
   5. Will check with applicants regarding when money is required and possible presentation ceremony
   6. Will defer to April board meeting
      1. Possibility of LHAS providing a sign to the recipient.
      2. Sign to be designed by LHAS and given to the grant recipient for placement
6. Nomination Committee - Bill H., Jody M., Dawn S.
   1. Need: President, Vice-President, Director 2, and Director 4
   2. Two positions with candidates
   3. Two positions without candidates
   4. Work continues
7. Outings - Bill H.
   1. Need to have a leader for March due to other commitments by Bill H. and Jerry P. (see General Meeting Announcements, below)
   2. April – probably a trip to Yankton and Gavin’s Point Dam. (see General Meeting Announcements, below)
   3. May – World Migratory Bird Day and our Birdathon!
8. Conservation – Bill Z.
   1. Why is the Iowa legislature so anti land protection?
      1. There are bills to
         1. Do away with the tax relief for protected forests and prairies.
         2. Do away with charitable deductions for land donation.
         3. Limit the value willing sellers can be paid by county conservation boards or the DNR for their land.
      2. The legislature refuses to fund the Iowa constitutional amendment (passed by over 60%of Iowa voters in 2010!) called IWILL or the Land and Water Legacy fund.
         1. The legislature has never fully funded the Loess Hills Alliance or the DNR.
         2. There is so little natural native habitat left in Iowa that if all that was worth protecting was actually protected Iowa would still have the dishonor of being the most altered state in America.
   2. Bird Friendly Iowa
      1. Iowa Audubon and other conservation groups are promoting the recognition of counties and cities that are “Bird Friendly “
      2. Our Loess Hills Audubon is encouraging Woodbury County and Sioux City to qualify for this recognition and is assisting with the requirements for this honor.
         1. Minimum criteria for designation
         2. Certification must be maintained periodically
         3. Meet with WCCB to write a narrative
         4. What is being done in addition to what is on the list.
9. Director Reports:
   1. Jerry V.
      1. Bob N. bird and birding memorabilia
      2. Wish to have others look at what is inside
      3. Still desire to place some materials on the website.
      4. Very impressive for what is saved
      5. Perhaps schedule some extra time for review after the June board retreat?
   2. Donna P. – No report
   3. Randy W.
      1. Updated website
      2. Change a header to “Archive” instead of “Newsletter”
         1. Old newsletters will still be here
         2. Include past recorded programs
            1. Rex’s Zoom presentation on eBird use
            2. Slide show from Randy’s Trail Tales program
   4. Jody M.
      1. Facebook is up to date
      2. Send photos as wells as PERMISSION TO USE the photos, please
   5. Dawn S. - not present/no report
10. Old Business
    1. Audubon Adventures handouts – Sharon P.
       1. Found in review of old LHAS materials
       2. Pass along old copies to Jody M. and DPNC
          1. Motion by Sharon to make these available to Adams and DPNC
          2. Second by Donna
          3. Approved
11. New Business
    1. Defer to April – Possible Business Card discussion
    2. Defer to April for discussion of plaque for mini-grant recipients (see above).
12. Adjourn at 6:58 PM

**General Meeting**

1. Called to order at 7:10 PM by Maria R.
2. Announcements - Maria R.
3. Outings – Bill H.
   1. March
      1. Third Saturday, 3/19
      2. Leader of Jerry V with visits to local areas
   2. April to Gavin’s Point Dam area.
   3. May is Birdathon!
4. New faces at the meeting – welcome to:
   1. Mark Haindfield
   2. Keith Weaver
5. Randy W. – Introduction of Dr. David Swanson and his *Birder’s Guide to South Dakota*
6. Adjourn at 8:03 PM

Attendees: 23

**LHAS Board of Directors**

President - Maria Rundquist

Vice President - open

Treasurer - Sharon Polifka

Secretary - Jerry Probst

Director 1 - Jerry VonEhwegen

Director 2 - Donna Popp

Director 3 - Randy Williams

Director 4 - Jody Moats

Director 5 - Dawn Snyder