Loess Hills Audubon Society Board Minutes

Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

January 4, 2024; 6:00 PM

Present: Kari S., Sharon P., Marla K., Jody M., Rex R., Bill H., Pam., Jeri W.

Absent: Jerry P.

Honored Guests: Randy W., John P., Kevin K., Bill Z., Dotty Z., Maria R., Jeanne B., Jan N., Jerry V.

1. Call to order by Rex R. at 6:05 PM
2. Review of Minutes from 12/7/2023
   1. No additions or corrections
      1. Motion by Jody to accept the minutes.
      2. Second by Bill H.
      3. December minutes approved.
   2. December minutes documents, “a motion to accept the amended November minutes, seconded and approved.”
      1. Has anyone received the revised minutes from November?
      2. Randy W. will check on revisions of November minutes.
      3. Revised November minutes need to be posted to the website.
3. Accomplishments: none noted
4. Officer reports:
   1. President -- Rex R.
      1. Rex is on vacation January 15-29
      2. Annual chapter reporting
         1. Deadline March 1, 2024; funds distribution 4 wk. later
         2. Multiple chapter leaders can access and help complete report
         3. Rex would appreciate various committee heads providing brief narrative reports of our activities.
         4. Each board member to fill out a pertinent section and return the spreadsheet to Rex.
         5. Look at the accomplishments provided by Jerry V.
         6. Include:
            1. Mini-grant program.
            2. Pledges to other groups for assistance (MOTUS, Little Sioux, Joy Hollow)
            3. Bird friendly Iowa accomplishments
            4. Siouxland Bird Guide reprint
         7. Can use a Word document and send to Rex to copy and paste to the NAS spreadsheet.
      3. Audubon Upper Mississippi River Network Roundtable (ZOOM meeting)
         1. Rex will be gone. Can someone substitute? Will provide link.
         2. NOON on Wednesday, January 17, 2024
      4. Iowa Audubon Bequest ($25,000)
         1. BeWildRewild program (https://bewildrewild.org)
         2. Brochure passed around.
         3. Rewilding the Mississippi River watershed (https://bewildrewild.org/projects/rewilding-the-heartland)
      5. LHAS Archives -- Chuck Johnson records: Disposition? – Not discussed.
   2. Vice President -- Bill H. – See below
   3. Treasurer -- Sharon P.
      1. William Vust bequest – no new information at this time.
      2. Fundraising Committee future actions
         1. Wish to have a finance subgroup meeting in early February
         2. Working group members please email Sharon with ideas for:
            1. Agenda
            2. Dates available
            3. Times available
            4. Possible locations.
      3. Treasurer’s Repot:
         1. $6483.08 – Beginning Balance for December 2023
         2. Deposits
            1. $24.00 -- two Warbler’s Journey book sales
            2. $250.00 – Jan N. / Jerry V. contribution for a new box of A Warbler’s Journey
            3. $60.00 – Two LHAs chapter membership renewals
            4. $50.00 – Memorial for Gary Heineman from Bill & Dotty Zales.
            5. Total Deposits: $384.00
         3. Withdrawals
            1. $245.65 – To Gryphon Press for one box of A Warbler’s Journey
            2. $1000.00 – Second pledge payment to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for the acquisition of the Little Sioux Scout Ranch
            3. $166.00 – Post office box renewal for one year.
            4. Total Withdrawals: $1411.65
         4. $5435.43 – Ending Balance for December 2023
         5. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report by Bill H.
         6. Second by Pam and the motion was approved.
      4. Upcoming pledges
         1. Third payment of $1000 to the INHF for the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in December 2024
         2. $1000 for the USD Motus tracking project for Dave Swanson.
            1. No further update on the USD Motus project.
            2. Will check with Dave S. in February with his program.
   4. Secretary (Jerry P.) – Randy W. substituting tonight – see above regarding revised November minutes.
5. Committee Reports:
   1. Membership Committee report (Marla K.)
      1. Outreach
         1. OWLS program at Hillview Recreation Area
            1. Tuesday, 27 February 2024.
            2. Randy and Pam M-S.
            3. Will obtain membership information from Marla.
         2. World Migratory Bird Day – Prairie Park on 5/11/24.
         3. Betty Strong Encounter Center Photo Exhibit – 1/14/25 – 2/23/25
      2. Birding Backpacks: Progress in organizing
         1. Consult with Tyler Harms (Iowa Young Birders)?
         2. Junior League grant opportunity deadline of Monday, 15 January 2024.
            1. Information provided by Maria R.
            2. Web link investigated by Marla K.

Need to be a member to sign in.

Could not obtain a good overview of the application process.

Need to go one-page-at-a-time through the process.

* + - * 1. Comprehensive spreadsheet of costs constructed by Marla (thank you!) and distributed to board members.
      1. Significant discussion about materials to place into the packs.
         1. Not all concerns can be addressed in this meeting.
         2. The grant may be one-time only.
         3. Marla K., Pam M-S., Randy W., and Maria R. will meet to

Pare the spreadsheet down to basic number of items.

Submit a grant request for a basic number of birding backpacks as a Pilot Project.

* + 1. “NW Iowa Sierra Group Chili Social w LHAS Silent Auction”: 1/13
       1. Items for auction: Marla K. will collect and catalogue
       2. Have volunteers for set up.
  1. Chapter Activities Committee report
     1. Birdathon Planning to be deferred to Finance subgroup in February.
     2. Outings report (Bill H.)
        1. Jan/Feb outings
        2. 20 January -- going to Waterman Creek and Prairie Heritage Center near Peterson, IA.
           1. Leave at 7:00 AM from Singing Hills Walmart
           2. Bring a lunch but may stop for lunch somewhere.
        3. Saturday February 17th is the GBBC for LHAS.
           1. Dispersed to different areas of Siouxland.
           2. Teams and their locations will be arranged at the February meeting.
        4. March – nothing yet
     3. CBC reports – no details due to time constraints. See website for reports. THANK YOU to everyone who helped!
     4. Monthly Programs report – Randy W.
        1. The rest of the 2023 to 2024 season:
           1. Thursday, 1 February 2024 – Dave Swanson
           2. Thursday, 7 March 2024 – Dave Hoferer, Dark Skies / Lights Out
           3. Thursday, 4 April 2024 – Jon Nylen / Leesa McNeil, Birding and Native Adventures
           4. Thursday, 2 May 2024 – Phil Breed, Honeybees. Jody M. to contact for program information.
        2. 2024 to 2025 season:
           1. Steve Backus: Antarctica Birding program via Zoom confirmed for Thursday, 5 September 2024.
           2. Possible speakers for 2024-2025 (Randy W.)

“County Parks”, Dan Heisel

“Bumble Bee Atlas”, Stephanie Shepherd, Iowa DNR.

Matt Anderson, SC Public Museum on Stone Park history

Ryan Allen and Brian Hazlett combination for On Common Ground. Contacted on 12/29/23 for a winter date (January or February).

Mark Dixon.

Rod Tondreau

Vicki Baker – SC wastewater treatment

Bill H and Jerry P on bird identification

Ty Smedes

Kelly Bach: City of Sioux City Parks Maintenance Supervisor. Update on SC projects including Prairie Park and mitigation area for Floyd River Trail grasslands.

Arah Montagne City of Sioux City Environmental Services Program and Development Manager.

* 1. Projects Committee report (Randy W.)
     1. Motus proposal by Dave Swanson: reapplication Dec 2023?
     2. Mini-Grants moratorium for 2023-24
     3. Siouxland Bird Guide update (Randy W. & Bill H.)
        1. Discussion of transport/storage of guides
        2. Have them delivered to Golden Hills
        3. Randy W. will contact Seth about shipping to Golden Hills and storage at that facility.
        4. Do not know when the printed guides will be available.
     4. “A Warbler’s Journey”: status update deferred due to lack of time.
  2. Conservation Committee report – deferred due to lack of time.
  3. Communications Committee report (Randy W., Kari S., Jody M.)

1. Directors’ Reports: all deferred due to lack of time.
2. Old Business:
3. New Business:
4. Adjournment at 7:00 PM
   1. Motion by Jody M.
   2. Second by Bill H. and approved.

General Meeting:

1. Announcements:
   1. January/February outings -- Bill H.
      1. January to Waterman Creek / Prairie Heritage Center
      2. February Great Backyard Bird Count
   2. Audubon Silent Auction – Randy W.
2. January Program: “Habitat Restoration with the Conservation Corps of Iowa”
   1. Tyler Flammang
   2. Introduction of Tyler by Randy W.

Attendance: 29

President: Rex Rundquist Secretary: Jerry Probst

Vice-President: Bill Huser Treasurer: Sharon Polifka

Director 1: Kari Sandage Director 4: Jody Moats

Director 2: Marla Kerr Director 5: Jeri Watkins

Director 3: Pam Miller-Smith