

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
AOS Spring Meeting, April 21, 2018
Isle Dauphine Club, Dauphin Island, AL

Call to order: 3:05

In attendance: Andrew Haffenden, Annabel Markle, Anne Miller, Bob Reed, Greg Harber, Greg Jackson, Harry Dean (presiding), Jean Folsom (recording), Joan Dixon, Kathryn Palmore, Ken Hare, Shirley Farrell, Stan Hamilton, Susan Barrow

ACTION - Minutes of the Winter 2018 meeting unanimously approved as written.

ACTION- Board approved Treasurer's report as submitted.

ACTION - Motion passed for Andrew Haffenden to purchase a white board for use at the meetings to post sightings and locations of birds seen during the meeting weekend.

Approval of minutes (Jean Folsom) –Minutes of winter 2018 board meeting approved as written.

Treasurer's Report (Joan Dixon) – Joan presented the AOS Profit and Loss statement and Balance Sheet for January – March 2018. The Profit and Loss statement showed a winter 2018 meeting income of \$3,375.00 and expenses of \$2,498.39, resulting in a winter meeting profit of \$876.61. The organization showed a 3-month total net income of \$5,062.77. Joan reported that registration for the 2018 spring meeting is at 110 and 104 have registered for the banquet. She reminded Anne Miller, former president, to meet with her to sign a document at the Mobile PNC bank transferring ownership of the AOS CD over to Harry Dean, current president.

President's Report (Harry Dean) – Harry stated that he felt we had a great winter meeting at St. Marks in Florida, with a good speaker. He suggested that the board consider holding a meeting there every 3-4 years.

Vice President's Report (Geoff Hill) – Harry reported that Geoff is still on sabbatical but when he returns he will help find speakers for the meetings. As of yet a speaker for the fall meeting has not been secured.

Committee Reports

Conservation (Greg Harber)

- Greg reported that most of what has been happening with conservation programs is rollbacks of actions taken during the Obama administration, but the 2018 budget was not as bad as anticipated for conservation programs. The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund saw increases in its budget.
- Discussion was held about the letter a concerned citizen sent to Alabama Power about how their use of helicopters with giant cutting blades in the clearance of their rights of ways had destroyed a heron rookery on Blue Creek of Lake Mitchell. The citizen had sent a copy of his letter to AOS and other conservation organizations. It was decided that AOS should not take a public position on this matter.
- A question was raised about not seeing many butterflies this year at Dauphin Island. Concern was that insect life is possibly being compromised on Dauphin Island by spraying for insects.

Education (Shirley Farrell)

- During the current school year 35 teachers have completed Flying Wild training in 2 workshops.
- The Education Committee will not hold a silent auction this year as they have enough money to buy workbooks for future Flying Wild workshops.
- AOS will continue to support the Green Ribbon schools. Don Self made bluebird houses that will be presented to the winners in May.

Membership Recruitment (Larry Gardella) – Larry was not present; Susan Barrow reported on Membership Services

- AOS currently has 419 members with 10 new members at the winter 2018 meeting and 15 new members at the spring 2018 meeting. Paid members, not including life members = 134. (There are approximately 86 life members)

- The need for sending dues reminder notices came up again; Greg Jackson suggested that an automated computer program for entering memberships, sending renewal notices, and thank you acknowledgements, etc. be researched by Larry and Susan.

Public Relations (Anne Miller and Ken Hare)

- Anne has obtained 500 printed address labels for the membership brochures with outdated addresses. About a thousand additional brochures still need updating, and additional labels will be printed as they are needed.
- Ken –requests more content for updating the website and FB page, especially good pictures. Stated that as new content is added and promoted on social media, the number of hits increase on the website.

Social Media (Carrie Threadgill)

- Ken said Carrie continues to keep the AOS Facebook page up to date, especially with meeting information – this may have helped with high registration for the last 3 meetings, which have been completely full.

Online Services (Kathy Hicks)

- This committee is essentially defunct; its functions now being carried out by the Public Relations Committee. The question was raised whether the board can terminate committees. Anne reported that the Bylaws authorize the Board to specify committees. Board needs to follow up on this.

Yellowhammer (Bob Reed)

- Reminder of Yellowhammer deadline of 10th of month following the meeting date for submitting content to newsletter
- Requests content to be used as filler. Send in and it will be used as needed.

Meetings (Kathryn Palmore)

- Last minute change to meeting site for this meeting from Methodist church to Isle Dauphine Supper Club – one time only.
- Kathryn will meet with new minister about AOS's use of church for the fall 2018 meeting
- Meetings committee needs more volunteers. Request can be added to meeting registration.
- Andrew suggested that our meetings need to be more of a birding meeting as it has been in the past and asked for permission to purchase a whiteboard where bird sightings during the meeting could be posted. Board approved this purchase.

Censusing/Bird Checklist/Ft. Morgan (Greg Jackson)

- One county count was completed Summer 2017-no counts in coastal area
- Next county for count, Limestone County, to include Tennessee Valley area– hope to get Ken Ward to help.
- Ft. Morgan has new manager – hopes she will follow management plan drawn up between AOS and Ft. Morgan
- Joe Watts is currently working on an interpretative sign for Ft. Morgan
- Bottlebrush plantings at the Ferry Landing; vegetation is regenerating after the fire.

Field Trips (Andrew Haffenden)

- States that we need to have sign-up for all field trips now
- Requests list of all people registered for meeting to help with picking of trip leaders
- Needs emails of people signed up for field trips, to be used for communication by Andrew
- If field trip sign up is connected with registration, the two means of registering, online and mail, present a coordination problem for the field trip chair.

DIBS/Dan C. Holliman Research (Greg Harber)

- DIBS now owns a total of 40 properties on Dauphin Island
- Newest DIBS purchase is a lot at end of General Gorgas
- The Holliman Fund will be advertised in the fall.
- All recipients of Holliman funds are required to submit a report about their research – it was suggested that future recipients present to AOS at the Friday night meeting.

New Business:

AOS/E-bird Project update- Ken Hare – Only 6 counties now remain that have not met the goal of having a minimum of 150 birds reported to ebird: Bibb, Blount, Coffee, Crenshaw, Fayette, and Lamar.

Photography Contest – Harry Dean – AOS would like to continue sponsoring the photography contest, but needs a photo contest chair. Harry is okay with AOS paying for prizes for winners. More discussion about prize money is needed.

Meeting adjourned 4:46 pm
Respectfully submitted,
Jean Folsom, secretary

Follow-up - these items need to be addressed at the fall 2018 meeting

- Membership – Larry Gardella and Susan Barrow – Research an automated computer program for coordinating membership management.
- Social Media – Ken Hare requests more content for updating the website and other social media, especially good pictures.
- Yellowhammer – Bob Reed requests content to be used as filler in the Yellowhammer as needed.
- Meetings – Kathryn Palmore's committee needs more volunteers for meeting set-up, etc. This request can be added to meeting registration forms.
- Field Trips – Andrew requests that we add field trip sign-up to meeting registration forms, so he can have the names and emails of all members registered for field trips.
- Photography Contest – Harry needs follow up of search for chair of committee. Also discussion needed about prizes for upcoming photo contest.
- Board needs to vote on removing Online Services as a committee.