

Topeka Audubon Society
Board of Directors' Meeting
Wednesday, August 8, 2007
3440 NW Button Rd . – Karlyle Woods
Topeka, Ks. 66618

Glen Caspers, Board President, called the meeting to order at about 7:10 PM. Besides the Board President, Glen Caspers, the following Directors' were present: Carol Morgan, Patsy Rush, Joanna Lacoursiere and newly appointed Board Members, Sarah Merrill, Linda Zempel and Paul Willis. Absent were Janeen Walters, Gary Haden and Diane Llamas. As was stated in Minutes of TAS Ad Hoc meeting of July 16, 2007, new Board appointees will be temporary pending members vote at the annual meeting in April of '08.

Minutes of July 16, 2007 were reviewed by the Board and approved by all with no changes.

Board and Committee updates and vacancies are as follows:

New Board members will be appointed as they arrive. The above mentioned are three appointees to date. Old Board members, Sandy Bohnsack, Bob Lawson and Rhonda Simpson are no longer Board Members.

Gary Haden has recruited Jim Malcolm to chair the Xmas Bird Count. Gary will complete the Xmas count this year and continue as a Board Member until April. At that time Jim will take over.

Patsy Rush has volunteered to continue the responsibility she's had for the past year as the Committee Chair for Publicity.

Mary Powell will be asked to be TAS's Chapter Representative to Audubon of Kansas . Paul, our former representative, will ask Mary who is already a trustee.

Carol reviewed a letter to TAS from the Army Corps of Engineers of June 14, 2007 re: the TAS Sanctuary. Expenses of upkeep, maintainance and /or repair including handicap accessible bathroom facilities were discussed in terms of expense and practicality. Upgrading bathroom facilities, Board members concluded, would be impractical as best, since Corps of Engineer requirements would likely be superceded by federal requirements (the National Disabilities Act); thus making the attempt unfeasible. However, the general desire was to find a way to save the Sanctuary and so Joanna moved that we keep the east property another year and Carol seconded. All approved. After further talk re: the particulars, Carol moved to demolish the west lot outhouse and to repair the existing facility near the parking lot. Paul seconded and all voted in favor. It was also noted that Larry Rutter, current Chairperson to the TAS Sanctuary is willing to put in another year in his current position.

Discussion re: Stone Nature Center and TAS future funding was tabled. Board members agreed to talk with Janeen and look over the facility via a TAS meeting there before making a decision about future funding. TAS is currently paid up through '08 for the \$700 commitment we now have; hence the \$1,400 seen on the current Budget for Stone.

Carol proposed the need for a Newsletter before the agreed upon quarterly wait since there is a speaker for next month in which case, a Program Guide will need to be devised also. Glen suggested we meet next month for the added reason that the current Agenda is quite lengthy. Glen will be setting up an email option for the newsletter and he intends also to put old issues on the Website .

Linda proposed that the Membership Directory be updated and reissued. All members agreed.

The new PO Box has been opened with three keys. Glen and Carol will keep two with a third in case one is lost. The new address is: Topeka Audubon Society, PO Box 1941, Topeka, Ks. 66601. Carol and Joanna agreed to be phone resources for prospective members, questions & comments.

Glen gave the Treasurer's Report and presented the 2008 Budget Worksheet. He announced that the Atchison Family Funds have been disbursed and that no more revenue is expected from this source. Among discussed changes to the proposed Budget for 2008 were the following: Under Scholarships and Donations, \$300 designated for Water Festival was recommended to go instead to Audubon of Kansas. Under Activities & Meetings, it was suggested that Program Expenses go from the proposed \$200 to \$350 in order to more adequately reimburse Program speakers (going from \$25 to \$50 check offered to each speaker). Under Operating and Promo Expenses, it was suggested to add \$600 to Membership Directory and reduce the Newsletter by \$600; thus changing the Newsletter to \$3,000. Since the Newsletter will become quarterly in the next year, it is thought that funds will be saved from the proposed \$3,600 that hadn't yet taken a reduction into consideration. Under Other Expenses, a change from \$200 to \$1,200 was suggested under Sanctuary Expense. This increase represents an estimated cost of demolition and repair to existing bathroom facilities as discussed earlier. Joanna moved that the Board accept the above changes to the 2008 Budget and Carol seconded. All were in favor.

Glen proposed selling ads in the Newsletter to help save TAS funds. This was discussed and probably will be considered at a later point.

Re: the Website. Glen reported that it is not up yet, but that he is working on it. The website address is: topekaaudubonsociety.org.

A tentative date of October 27, 2007 had been set for the Bird Seed Sale. There was some discussion as to which resource to use for seed. This will be determined at a later date.

Glen asked some brief questions regarding TAS goals to submit to NAS in the Annual Report.

Paul expressed appreciation on behalf of TAS members for current efforts by the Board to save TAS from extinction.

The next Board meeting will take place in September due to large agenda at a “to be determined” time.

As there was no further agenda, the meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanna D. Lacoursiere