

Weminuche Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2019

I. **Call to Order**

Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board at 4:06pm in the Methodist Church meeting room.

II. **In Attendance:**

In Attendance: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Anne Stevens, Brenda Breeding,

Becky Herman, Keith Bruno

Absent: Loyette Stewart, Suzanne Coe

A quorum was present.

III. **Approval of Minutes From Last Meeting**

A copy of the amended minutes of the last meeting was distributed via email. Minutes were accepted as amended from the meeting of October 7, 2019

IV. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Anne Stevens, read her report which was accepted as presented. The following topics were discussed:

- Income – Membership Dues 75.00
 - Member Donation 5.00
 - City Market Qtr. Reward 227.51
- Expenses - 0 –

- Reminder that the 3-mo CD with Edward Jones matures on 12/13/19 and a decision for investment will be made at the December Board Meeting for reinvestment.

A motion was made to accept the report which was approved as presented.

V. Old Business

Liability Insurance

Jean provided copies/quotes from **American Family Insurance** and **State Farm Insurance** for liability coverage on board members. Brenda suggested her husband could review and compare policies then provide feedback to Jean on best coverage/pricing offered by these two companies.

Project Updates:

- **Burke Grant (Keith)**

Sally High of GGP indicated it would be into December before their part of the grant was submitted. This grant provides physical structures for the native plant garden.

Keith wrote **Jamie Weiss**, Audubon botanist, for insight on plant pricing, sourcing, budgeting and the Habitat Hero workshop.

Jan O'Brien contacted Keith for training at their garden club.

Several Weminuche Audubon members met with Keith on October 31, 2019 to discuss, give input, begin the grant writing process.

As added information, Herb briefly mentioned that the Native Plants Society works with the Denver Botanical Gardens. This contact might provide further assistance on the grant project. Jamie, with Audubon, gives a good level of support as a botanist.

Becky stressed the importance of being concise in the grant writing for easy reading and consideration.

Other suggestions were: the importance of adding diversity/inclusion, school participation, tours for the garden, workshop for Summer 2020. Keith will continue to meet with Audubon members to complete the application.

- **Riverwalk Advocacy Group (Brenda)**

Brenda provided a written overview to board members on topics covered during the 10/21/19 meeting. The primary focus was the effects on water (hot springs and San Juan

River) and developing a systematic approach to monitor water quality/flow into wetlands. Other concerns were noise, area designated as “blighted”, specific barriers to safeguard visuals, sewer ponds. Various agencies were suggested for input and contact to further assist in understanding the repercussions on the environment.

- **Lead-free Information (Jean)**

Jean advised the board of a shooting club that has formed in Pagosa Springs which might be a good outlet for dispersing lead-free information. ACC is developing a brochure for this purpose proposed to be ready by year’s end.

Discussion of **Nest Box Construction** was tabled until the December meeting.

- **Bird Monitoring (Herb)**

Herb continues to develop the Bird Monitoring site - updating data, photos, and inserting the latest research on the three sites involved during the monitoring this summer. He concluded that the Fawn Gulch site jumped out as a “Happy Place” for birds, Jackson Mountain was moderate, and Turkey Springs was the least habitat for birds at present.

- **CBC (Anne, Keith)**

Anne provided updated 2019 CBC sheets for training and bird monitoring stats. Jean took the forms to ready for packets to be distributed for training. Becky will print.

Nest Box Construction

VI. *New Business*

Nursing Home

Possibility of developing an area at the local nursing home for residents to enjoy birds by developing bird hangers in viewing areas. Jean and Keith will further discuss with Tricia, Activity Director for the home.

Winter Board Meeting Times

All board members are in agreement to change the time from 4pm to 3pm.

Website Review

Jean will meet with Laura Dollar, website designer, to discuss/work with Jean on WordPress software. Herb & Becky discussed compatibility; Keith suggested obtaining quotes on different tiers and discuss later. Becky mentioned the donate button, PayPal, on website which Stacey worked on prior to leaving the board.

Other New Business

Becky described and explained the process of TAB (Trucks Across Borders). The Durango/Silverton and Toltec/Cumbres Railroads are developing a user friendly satellite phone application for tourists and locals along the railroad route (89 miles) and other roads in the area (a total of 125 miles) to discover sites of importance in this designated area. Completion and availability is planned by 2020 and will culminate with events celebrating the Cumbres/Toltec's 50th anniversary during the months of May – August 2020.

National Audubon is partnering with TAB in this effort using the eBird app to install bird information for the Sambrito Wetlands and other watchable wildlife areas. The Ute and

Jicarilla Apache tribes are involved. Becky will develop and provide the narrative for Audubon.

Joan Ward Award

Loyette will contact her to discuss the award.

Wolves Presentation by Dalia Malone

Herb suggested this should be presented to our membership as there are pros/cons on this. It might be a divisive issue. The board was in agreement.

The next board meeting will be on **Monday, 12/02/19, 3pm, @** the Methodist church.

VII. Adjournment

Jean Zirnhelt adjourned the meeting at 5:53 pm

Minutes submitted by Brenda Breeding