

Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting November 7, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Christine.

Board members present	Board members absent	Other members present
Christine Prescott, President Kayla Johnson, 1 st VP Anne Maguire, 2 nd VP Michelle Foss, Treasurer Katy Simmons, Secretary Bennett Amdor Kyle Finley Steve Geddes Melissa Sitze Amy Campagna	Betty Fullerton Virginia Stauffer	Julia Rawnsley

OLD BUSINESS

1) Approval of October 3, 2023 board meeting minutes. Anne moved to approve the minutes, Michelle seconded. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Katy - Art Show Update

- Date of show: 4/20 (alternate 4/26)
- Potentially changing the space we use within the Harper Center to allow for better accommodation of the crowd.
- Reviewing grade appropriateness of book prizes.
- The committee discussed whether or not to limit entries to only Nebraska birds, but will keep it NE and endangered/threatened for now.

2) Michelle - September Financial Report highlights

Profit & Loss:

- Pulled in more than expected in birdseed sale (about \$1,00 more than last year)
- Expenses are on track for the year
- Some unbudgeted expenses: garage door repair (\$300)
- Revenue & Expense:
- Received a \$2K donation
- Waiting on complete info for Other Expenses

3) Anne – Programs

- This Thursday evening (11/9) turkey talk at DJ's. Turkeys are suffering a 45% population decline since 2009 and state limits are now in place. There will be a short film and discussion about work being done under a \$2 million research grant to trap and track turkeys.
- January: Grasslands Unlimited
- February Albert Ray – photographer, artist, sculptor
- Other possibilities: prescribed burning; insects and their relation to bird feeding; Nic Salick (birds and conservation at TNC)

4) Christine - Birdseed Sale Closeout/Update

- 36 total new customers, 21 new ASO customers; total of 294 customers; 21 volunteers helped with unloading the Des Moines truck, loading orders, deliveries, & providing food
- Gross profit: \$17,524
- Next sale pickup date is Feb 17

5) Kayla - Prairie Update

- Kayla, Michelle, Glen burned newest reconstruction area of Glen Pollock prairie; this was a brome field; it was burned to burn foxtail before it went to seed; will seed it more with collected seeds at a later date
- Kayla is applying for Cabela's grant for Cuming City cemetery for:
 - Rental of a mulcher to deal with sumac and locust trees; herbicide; seed

6) Christine - Recap of National Leadership Conference in Estes Park, CO Nov. 1 – 6

- Attended the first combined meeting of Audubon of Great Plains where they discussed what representation is going to look like
- Session topics: DEIB, engagement, leadership boards, membership
- Christine pushed to get members' emails from National
- Changes to Annual Report coming
- 360 attendees
- Next conference will be summer of 2025
- Diversity Equity Inclusion Belonging: could potentially get funding from National for DEIB efforts; discussion about conservation principles to get more programming and knowledge out there, foster partnerships; one example: bird surveys on tribal lands; recurring theme is ASO providing programming all over city; NRCS looking for projects to give money to

Miscellaneous notes

Steve: he and Virginia went to Chalco birding event; only 2 attendees (terrible weather)

Amy: Field trip Thursday: 6 people are registered

Dec 17 is Christmas bird count, led by Bob Wells; registration required via link on Fontenelle calendar, limited to 30 people

Christine: no meeting in Dec; next meeting will be Jan. 2

Giving Tues (11/28) coming up; will promote on socials

Email from UNO Conservation Society: fundraiser coming up 11/8-9 please pass
the word
12/3 Wachiska 50th anniversary event at UNL

Adjourned at 8:06.