**Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting
February 6, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Christine.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Board members present** | **Board members absent** | **Other members present** |
|  |  |  |
| Christine Prescott, President | Kayla Johnson | Julia Rawnsley |
| Michelle Foss, Treasurer | Amy Campagna | Tom Neneman |
| Katy Simmons, Secretary |  | Conor Gearin |
| Bennett Amdor |  | Trevor Pellerite |
| Kyle Finley |  | Betty Fullerton |
| Steve Geddes |  | John Fullerton |
| Melissa Sitze |  |  |
| Virginia Stauffer |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**OLD BUSINESS**

1) Approval of January 2, 2024 board meeting minutes. Virginia moved to approve the minutes as amended (correct Julia’s and Bennett’s names), Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1) Board Vote – Christine. Michele moved to vote on new board members (Connor Gearin & Trevor Pellerite), Virginia seconded. Approved.

2) Michelle – Finance Report/Update

* + Doing pretty well so far. Bird seed sale going well. Will meet budget for direct support. Won’t have exact figures in financials until a few months after the seed sale. Administrative (insurance, rent, repairs on garage door, toilet) expenses above budget. Utilities going up and will go up again next year.
* Budget reminder – need numbers from committees/projects: needed by March meeting
* Property tax update – 501(c)(3) organizations get some exemptions, but NET money does not have exemptions. Glen Pollock prairie is half from each pool of money, so Michelle applied for exemption from WA county for the NET portion.

3) Christine – Programs & Field Trips

* Thursday, Feb 15 at DJ’s: Albert Rhea – photographer, artist, and sculptor will talk about backyard bird photography. Social hour at 6:00, talk at 7:00.
* Thursday, March 21 at 6 pm: Glacier Creek walk led by Bennett Amdor, followed by Trevor Pellerite talking about pocket prairies at 7 pm in the barn
* Thursday, April 11, Conor Gearin will speak at DJ’s about BirdNote
* Anne still working presenting the John O’Keefe documentary
* EZ birding walk w/Christine, 9 am at Towl park this Saturday February 10
* Lake Manawa field trip February 17 led by Conor Gearin

4) Virginia – Art Show

* Looked at layout at Creighton; this year arranged for space for volunteers to leave belongings; committee meeting before art intake Feb 22 - 24; judging on Feb 27; space a little pricier than last year

5) Betty – Bird seed sale

* $25k in orders so far; 3 more days to order
* John: working on volunteers; will send out sign up for food volunteers

6) Christine - Pheasants Forever using ASO office

* Pheasants Forever asked to use space; lease seems compatible and Michele will be presenting at the meeting, so the requirement to have a board member present will be covered

7) Christine - Backyard Bird Habitat Program

* Concerns of executive board: no one on board qualified to certify yards; other organizations in area also doing this (Nebraska Monarchs – give you a sign if you get plants from them; Green Bellevue) – don’t want to duplicate their efforts.
* Need to form a committee to address, maybe put together education program, have info at Earth Day; moving forward without certification is probably best option.
* Steve, Trevor, Melissa, Tom, Bennett, Julia will form a committee

8) Christine working on annual report so send her any info: outreach, outings, etc. that occurred in the past year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.