Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting
September 5, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by Christine.

| **Board members present**Christine Prescott, PresidentKayla Johnson, 1st VPAnne Maguire, 2nd VPMichelle Foss, TreasurerKaty Simmons, SecretaryBennett AmdorAmy Campagna (by phone)Kyle FinleyBetty FullertonSteve GeddesMelissa SitzeVirginia Stauffer | **Board members absent** | **Other members present**Julia RawnsleyEvangelos BeardallDorie the Dog |
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**Introductions**

**OLD BUSINESS**

1) Approval of May 5, 2023 board meeting minutes. Amended to reflect that February and March minutes were approved via email; 990 filing approved via email; ASO prairie re-named for Glenn Pollock; corrected the spelling of Melissa Sitze.

Motion to approve amended minutes by Michelle. Seconded by Katy. Minutes as amended were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1) CHRISTINE: Name change comments and moving forward
The comment period regarding renaming ASO closed August 31, 2023. Of the 12 respondents, 10 wanted to keep the Audubon name and 2 wanted to change it. There was a lengthy discussion including the issues of: correct procedure; cost of rebranding; the importance of name recognition; if the decision should go out for a vote to the entire membership.
The issue was tabled and Christine asked for each board member to give her input on how we think we should proceed. Christine will send out an email to collect input.

2) MICHELLE: CPA contract
Same price, same contract. Virginia moved to approve; Kayla seconded. No discussion. Contract approved.

3) CHRISTINE: Board meetings
Last week the Executive Board discussed the advantage of yearound board meetings. Moving forward, only the December meeting will be skipped. Board members are still required to attend at least half of the meetings.

4) ANNE: Newsletter

FYI to new members: the Newsletter is how we reach local members, since our members come from National and we are only given a mailing address.
For the Nov/Dec issue, content is needed by the end of September. Goal is to get programming for the year set so the entire schedule can appear in an early edition of the newsletter.

Press release on the renaming of the ASO prairie to go out. Kayla will write the release. Amy has media contacts.

5) KAYLA: Committee updates
In an effort to get more engagement and create more opportunities for people to become actionable members, committees will need to meet at least quarterly. Committee meetings should be consistently scheduled so that those interested in ASO can be pointed to committee involvement. It was recommended that committees use DJs in the hour before the usual program, but can do whatever chair wants. Board members should be attending general meetings &/or programs.

Committee chairs and board member committees were confirmed:
Anne - Programs Chair
Bennett - Programs; Education/Field Trips; Natural Areas Stewardship
Steve - Education/Field trips; Natural Areas Stewardship
Melissa - Natural Areas Stewardship; Education/Field Trips
Kyle - Nominating
Christine - Birdseed Sale
Katy - Natural Areas Stewardship

6) BETTY: Bird seed sale (Oct 14-15)

Brochures arriving in mailboxes this week. Always need more volunteers. Missing 4 very active volunteers this time. Need people to bring food. Last date to order 10/5.
Working on getting profit margin up, but the cost of seed has been high. Only raised prices on half of products this year. Net profit went from $15K to $18K last year. Mostly need people to haul the bags, but need all types of help.

Anne - John O’Keefe will allow us to show his film *The Last Prairie*; we can use Dundee theater but it will cost $1200. There was a discussion about whether or not to have a suggested donation to help defray the cost. UNO spaces require insurance for minors, which is cost-prohibitive for ASO.

7) KYLE: UNO Audubon update
They are willing to help with bird seed sale. They have changed their name to UNO Conservation Society.

8) ANNE: Programs update
The 9/21 bird feeder talk led by Bob Wells can only accommodate 30 people since only the smaller room at DJ’s Dugout was available. Online registration for the event will be capped at 30.
Some of the upcoming programs include Pollinator Gardens, Birds and Climate Change, and a trip to Heron Haven. Details for all programs and field trips can be found on the events calendar.

9) CHRISTINE: Leadership conference (November 2-5)
The National Audubon Society Leadership Conference will be held in person for the first time in 3 years. Christine will attend and has applied for a scholarship to help with costs.

10) All: Update board contact list and conflict of interest forms

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Minutes submitted by Katy Simmons