

Audubon Society Omaha  
October 1, 2019

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Bob.

Name	Present	Notes	Name	Present	Absent
Bob Wells	x	President	Bob Fuchs		Other members in attendance
Jackie Scholar	x	1st VP	Clem Klaphake		
Virginia Stauffer	x	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Rick Schmid		
Matt Miller	x	Past President	Mike Benkis		
Betty Fullerton	x	Treasurer	Nelli Falzgraf		
Shannon Engberg	x	Secretary	Kathy Schwery		
Ruth Bentzinger	x	Elected Directors	Glenn Pollock	x	
Mark L. Cave	x		Eric Scholar		
Elizabeth Chalen	x		Helen Bartee		
Grace Gaard	x		Tisha Johnson		
Anne Maguire	x		Stacey Coury		
Megan Deichert	x		Laurine Blankenau		
Christine Jacobsen	x		Alex Wiles		
Kayla Johnson	x		Austen Hill		
			Candy Gorton	x	

**Minutes:** Minutes of September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting are on file.

### Informational Items

- 1) Welcome to newest board members!
- 2) Cuming City Cemetery plans. Glenn
  - a. Matt is bringing contractor out for estimate of shrub removal – will have estimate within next month – have some \$1200 left available
  - b. Matt met with the contractor (Wes Atkins, has worked with us and FF) – invasive tree \$3025 – road frontage and N trees with some hand and machine removal – watch out for remnant prairies, to get done by thanksgiving
  - c. Should be able to keep up with maintenance with volunteers thereafter, trail, parking options after this is removed
  - d. Some basic clean up doing with volunteers
  - e. Have had at least 6 groups visit already despite little info shared
  - f. Need signage once cleaned up and sign-in sheet
  - g. Neighbors – the Smiths – are great and support our work, can use their parking as overflow if needed
  - h. Volunteers or land stewardship day to happen in the future
  - i. Was already approved within the stewardship budget (\$7500) but do need a contract = should get board approval
  - j. Moves to approve – Betty; Mark seconded; Discussion: who will sign contract – committee chair. Glen will sign. All approved.
- 3) Education Committee update – Elizabeth
  - a. We met in mid-September to talk about our game plan for education programming for the upcoming year. With our committee being made up of mostly new folks to the Board, we decided we would stick with what worked last year and re-evaluate next year to make any larger changes to our programming. We will be submitting a new proposal to Collective for Youth for

the 2019-2020 school year of afterschool programming. The proposal will be similar to what is attached here (with some slight updates to the fee side of things since we are not developing new programming per say). You will notice in the attachment that the first two pages are updated but the 3rd is not. We are working on this part :). Our proposal will be for 6 weeks of classroom programming and one field trip at each of 6 schools.

- i. Elizabeth will need help from Betty on budget
- b. We have also been talking with Gretna Public Schools and Millard Public Schools about the possibility of offering some programming to their students as well. Currently this is just an exploratory conversation to see if they would have an interest and the funding for such an endeavor.
  - i. Tisha leading this – close to her home
  - ii. During the school day programming
  - iii. Still exploring, will need to charge \$80/hour for CFY - Betty
- c. In other education notes, the September field trip had to be canceled on September 22 due to extensive rain that day and flooding of the trails at Neale Woods. Our next field trip in October is with Tisha Johnson on Saturday October 26th, visiting Holy Sepulchre and Forest Law Cemeteries to look for interesting birds.
- d. In November, Clem Klaphake will lead a trip on November 16th to visit some of the lakes in Sarpy County, and in December we will have the Christmas Bird Count!

### Consent Agenda

- 1) Green Hollow – new IA state park - Glenn
  - a. in Southern Loess Hills near Thurman Iowa
  - b. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation was in need of funds for infrastructure improvement need in order to be designated a State Park.
  - c. Bill Blackburn will donate the 150 acres virgin Loess Hills woodland of Green Hollow.
  - d. Last meeting, we discussed the possibility of a donation for this new IA state park
    - i. Land going to IA DNR but needs \$5k more to help with the donation. Conservation focused. Betty has \$10k unbudgeted avail.
    - ii. Iowa DNR is requiring some **infrastructure** before taking it. Tabled until October to get more updated financials
    - iii. They are \$1000 short – could we help by Dec 31st
  - e. Betty moves to approve \$1000 INHF to add to the state part for infrastructure, Virginia seconds.
  - f. Discussion? IA DNR is ready to take this part on – their attorneys already involved
  - g. Approved? yes
  - h. No obtained
- 2) Introduction of Candace Gorton (Candy). Bob
  - a. Replaces Stacey – been with the US Corps of Engineers, biologist, EIA, (started as a secretary), environmental planning, civil works focus
- 3) Approval of last meeting Minutes. Shannon
  - a. Betty moves to approve, Jackie seconded?
  - b. Discussion? none
  - c. Approved? approved

### NEW BUSINESS?

- 1) Kayla – UNO Chapter, 18 students have responded to survey that gauged their interest, fit to their schedule, bird survey work, ebird as a first event and maybe the N Omaha one for conservation work
  - a. Some grant funding from ASO will help Bob leverage \$6000, need some match from ASO
    - i. Grants will be known in December (Audubon van rental and NET other grant)
    - ii. Lump the survey work to be done at ASO prairie – pay them \$2000 for the survey?

- iii. Matt proposed that we provide \$2000 to our UNO college chapter, hopefully as a matching grant funding on two Audubon funding grants. Virginia seconded. No discussion. Approved
  - b. Environmental sci program at UNO – students want to do the work and network with folks on our board and our partners
  - c. Concern about liability issue – requirement for UNO van and UNO faculty driving
  - d. Might need waiver for volunteers – Megan can help tweak form from FF
  - e. Will need constitutional change at UNO
- 2) Glenn – IA Natural Heritage grant restrictions – can go to the Attorney General, get more history of good stewardship for the grant funds, maybe can revisit about using it outside of the county
  - 3) Glenn – Jordan new volunteer, maybe someone to nominate to board for next year
  - 4) Betty – bird seed sale, need help on Wed-Fri Oct 16-18, help by 5-6am unloading, not to have at Neal's house, more going to Betty's, half of the number of orders from last year – betty reaching out via email and a few post cards
    - a. Need volunteers - Wed-Fri (need 3 volunteers on two days), Sat 9-1, 1-4 and Sunday 12-4
  - 5) Independent contract comments?
    - a. Folks will try to look at – Megan to review
    - b. For Candy and education people

Glen: called for Adjournment, Jackie Seconded,  
Discussion? none  
Approved? yes  
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm  
Minutes submitted by Shannon Engberg, Secretary