

**Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting
October 1, 2024**

Present

Sarah Shepherd
Betty Fullerton
Roger Carroll
Virginia Stauffer
Trevor Pellerite
Kyle Finley

Not attending

Anne Maguire
Conor Gearin
Melissa Sitze
Steve Geddes
Katy Simmons

7:00 pm Bennett called meeting to order

Old Business

Betty moved to approve September board meeting minutes
Roger seconded and the motion passed

NEW BUSINESS

Introduce new Exec Admin Sarah Shepherd

Virginia shared hiring decision for Sarah Shepherd – she very highly recommended and is a type A organizer. She is ready to get back into workforce, part time. Past work includes - outreach for all NE Public Schools, Prevent Blindness, social worker and taught garden at Montessori and rehab hospital. Works as volunteer with Omaha Permaculture

Google Workspace

Work needed to add Sarah and get email. Get sign in for main email. Sarah and Virginia will work together to get Work Space walk through and FireSpring for website
Kyle asked about Federal Hiring laws on contracting vs part-time employee. Betty reviewed and we are on track for staying right with the IRS.

Discussion with group about using Google Workspace and why its important to upload and share work on common drives. Kyle offered to help with training for those unfamiliar with Workspace and offered to lead a brief how-to session before our next board meeting.

Bird Seed Sale Update

Betty needs volunteers for snacks and will send an email to snack bringers.

ASO Strategic Plan

Last term, Kyle asked exec committee to consider creating an overall strategic plan for ASO. Kyle explained what it entails and shared his rough draft with the group and explained his experience with similar organizations – plan will give all board members direction and goals and ways to measure success. Will plan time to discuss again when exec team is available and will probably need a separate working meeting to create first draft of plan.

Xmas Bird Count

Amy - Date for CBC December 14 - if people are interested contact Bob - rcwells@cox.net
NOTE: Bob sent Virginia an email last week letting me know it will be held on the 15th, not 14th.

Saw-whet Owl Banding Field Trip

Amy is finalizing details/dates for an owl banding program at Hitchcock- wants to limit number of attendees to 20 people. Kelly is new Owl Banding Person.

January filed trip at Desoto

Amy is working on field trip for January to view snow geese at indoor facility.

Habitat for Humanity Blue Stem Prairie

Virginia informed board that Habitat is building a big housing development, named Blue Stem Prairie and thinks this is a good opportunity to ask, help, build small native prairie for residents - Trevor will check with his contact at HfH to see if gardener architect is planning any prairie

Bennett adjourned meeting at 7:45 p.m.