

Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting – March 4, 2025 (via Google Meet)

Present:

Anne Maguire
Conor Gearin
Bennett Amdor
Melissa Sitze
Katy Simmons
Roger Carroll
Kyle Finley

Betty Fullerton
Glenn Pollock
Trevor Pellerite (& Ralphie the dog)
Sarah Shepherd
Guests:
Derek Comba
Sheila Glencer
Mark Harberg

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes will be delayed until our April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNE -

Welcomed guests

Programs update

- March 13: Mike Benkins will talk about wildlife photography
- April 10: Dr. Joseph Fauver will talk about ticks
- There has been discussion about having programs over the summer:
 - Erica (from last meeting) said she and her husband could do a talk on turtles.
 - Conor said we could possibly get the president of Bluebirds of NE.
- Could we find better place for monthly program meetings? Anne checked out Zio's and decided it wouldn't work but will take ideas. Trevor is continuing to look into alternatives.

Conor asked if guests have questions. Filled in the usual procedure for meetings and various committees. As of May we have 5 slots open (Trevor moving back to Colorado in April).

CONOR

Chimney Swift project:

- Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association is interested in hosting a chimney swift tower and looking into Watchable Wildlife Grant to help fund and hoping ASO can help with about \$800.
- Looking for more host sites; Conor checked with Elmwood Tower and they are interested.

Audubon name:

- Update on renaming for some chapters.
- About 50 have or will changed their name (Chicago, Georgia, NYC)
- Many use "bird" in name and remove Audubon. New names reflect on their mission, does not include honorifics/names.
- Talked to Judy Pollock (Chicago Bird Alliance) & she offered to come to a board meeting to talk about their chapter's experience. Board agreed that would be a good idea.

Marketing communications update – looking to bring on graphic designer Hannah Amberg to help with newsletter

Nebraska Land Trust legislative issue:

- Many are giving testimony about eliminating NET budget. Conor encouraged all to call or write senators and make our voices heard.
- Glenn emphasized that it is not tax dollars, but is profit from lottery.
- Conor spoke with Kristal Stoner: state forgets about this money and then when they want it, disregard all the good that has been done.

BETTY-

Bird seed sale:

- 100% accuracy
- had new volunteers
- continue to get new customers
- sold about the same amount for the last 3 years (low to mid \$80,000)
- the cost of seed as a percentage of sales is going down.

Financials

- 990: Let Betty know of any changes to education/conservation activities figures (fiscal year ended June 2024)
- Expenses: 67% is programs, which is typical of non-profits
- Assets: cash went up, investments went up +\$50,000

Email any questions to Betty

SARAH-

Art Contest volunteers

Will be starting this week taking in art work; but lacking volunteers for upcoming tasks (labeling & packaging prizes, etc.)

National Audubon Society Annual Report – completed with the help of many

MELISSA: Earth Day (4/26, same day as Art Show) – now is the time to sign up if we want to do it since we get a discounted price if done this week

ANNE: Meeting adjourned at 7:48