

Audubon Society of Omaha Board Meeting
April 1, 2025

Present:

Anne Maguire - President
Conor Gearin – 1st VP
Melissa Sitze - Treasurer
Katy Simmons
Roger Carroll

Amy Campagna
Trevor Pellerite
Kyle Finley
Sarah Shepherd
Derek Comba

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

OLD BUSINESS

Motion made by Conor to approve the March minutes, seconded by Trevor. Motion passed and minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Miscellaneous –

This is Trevor's last board meeting. He is moving back to Colorado.
Mark Vrtiska is conducting a survey of birders.

PROGRAMS UPDATE – Anne & Amy

- April 17: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Ticks (Dr. Joseph Fauver)
- May 8: Native Plants, Pollinators, and You (Michelle Foss & Noah Sundberg)
- May 25: Mindful Birding at Waubonsie State Park
- June 12: Sustaining Birds, Bugs, Wildlife, and Bees with Trees

MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS – Conor

- Do we want to budget for a July/August Meadowlark? After brief discussion, Rodger moved to authorize funds for the additional Meadowlark issue, seconded by Trevor, motion passed.
- Men's Garden Club: asking for an ASO table at their event. Let Conor or Sarah know if you would like to volunteer.
 - o 5/2, Friday 2:00 – 8:00
 - o 5/3, Saturday 8:00 – noon
- Firespring wants to re-design our website so it will function with their updated system. We currently pay them \$165/month. Conor will look into the details of this.
- The board had a zoom conversation with Judy Pollock of Chicago Bird Alliance regarding the steps involved, and challenges faced, when they changed their name from Chicago Audubon.
 - o Their board had hoped the entire national organization would move to a new name.
 - o There are 2 main groups of chapters changing the name or considering it:
 - Midwest and larger chapters around the country
 - o Judy will get back with their costs for a lawyer to handle the name change. Their chapter does not own any land so have no advice on how to handle. They are Doing Business As Chicago Audubon during the transition period.
 - o A group of cities, including Madison and Detroit, announce the name change at

- the same time.
 - They educated their members about JJ Audubon's stance on slavery and kept them up to date on the process (blog posts, press releases, newsletter) and lost very few members.
- Chimney Swift update
 - Joslyn Castle is asking ASO to contribute \$700 toward their 16' tall swift tower
 - It was agreed that ASO will put off the decision to see if Joslyn is awarded their grant in November

ART SHOW – Sarah/Anne

- Art Show is April 26th at the Harper Center
- Have a crew of volunteers to put up 768 pieces of art and get the space ready
- Conor will be taking a turn reading names of award winners

NE MONARCHS – Anne

- Nebraska Monarchs - looking for sponsors for their Native Plant Giveaway & Environmental Expo
- Do we want to do a sponsorship?
- \$1,000 gets us recognition on their web site and hand outs
- Katy moved to sponsor at \$1,000, Trevor seconded, motion passed.

BUDGET – Melissa

- Working on next year's budget so let her know about potential expenses or if you have any questions

Meeting adjourned at 8:09.