September 11, 2024 ALAS Board Meeting Minutes

Attending: Susan Schuller, Karen Dostal, Ned Grossnickle, Bob Lane, Jan Seiler, Joe Schultz, Janet Smith, Brad Branwell-Z, Rob Pendergast, Anthony Martynski, Scott Reilly (via Zoom), Susan Schwartz (new)

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

Notes:

Introductions of board members to new members

Approval of May Minutes: Motion made by Rob P, 2nd by Ned, Motion carried and approved.

Treasure's Report: Nothing too major to report on from Jan S. Filed for audit.

Announcements:

a. Bird City: Janet reported that Stevens Point received the High Flyer award for Bird City again, belatedly, in July. A change in leadership caused a delay in awards.
b. Karen reported that More Jewels of Nature is going to the printer on Friday. Cost for 500 copies is $2,700, or $5.40/copy. Alas will sell for $21.95 ea. Lora will pay postage & handling; ALAS will reimburse her. Need to get word to other Audubon chapters for sales. John Munson has good marketing ideas. Goal is to sell at October meeting. Free copies will be sent to book contributors – Susan Schuller will check with Lora. Karen suggested giving Lora a gift for all her hard work on the project.
c. Karen testified for ALAS at the Vista Sands Hearing.
d. Karen reported that Schmeeckle admin. would appreciate ALAS adjourning our meetings by 8:15 to comply with student workers' work-study requirements. ALAS will be cognizant of timing during our meetings and respect this request.

Discussion Items:

a. ALAS is looking for volunteers for the Science by the River event in Wis. Rapids on Oct. 5, 11am-2pm. Karen asked for board members to consider helping. She will give volunteers the contact information for the event.
b. Karen and Susan Schuller are looking for folks to form a committee to drop "Audubon" from ALAS' name, which would ultimately be a membership decision. Committee would brainstorm potential name options and bring to membership, preferably by end of the year.
c. We need to look at costs for printing the newsletter in color vs. black and white. A past compromise was having the cover be in color. Jan and Karen will look at monthly averages and bring this item back to ALAS' October meeting.

Action Items:

a. Move walkie-talkie item to next board meeting (Brad Baum)
b. Bob and Karen met and discussed ALAS' grants to schools, and reported their conclusions. Discussed increasing awards from $300 to $500, revising the offering letter, widening grant opportunities to other groups (e.g., 4-H, Scouts, Camps, etc), increase contact with grantee organizations and support, and encouraging research and ongoing projects. Revised grant letter will be given to Rob to post on the web site. **Motion** (Ned), second (Susan Schwartz): To Increase the standard amount of mini-grants from $300 to $500 with the understanding that the award may be a greater amount. All grants would be board approved. All ayes, motion carried.
c. Price for birdseed for Schmeeckle (addition to agenda): Jim Buchholz requested birdseed for Schmeeckle's feeders, something ALAS typically donates to them. The wholesale cost is $483, with a retail sale amount of $600. Ned indicated that the seed cost increases every year, so ALAS should

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consider increasing the wholesale cost that we approve. **Motion** (Susan Schuller), second (Susan Schwartz): Increase the amount to spend for bird seed (wholesale) to donate to Schmeeckle to $500. All ayes, motion carried.

2: Discretionary Funding; Keeping list of organizations the same as last year. Jan will send checks out.

Committee Reports:

Newsletter:

Mail copy was sent out, except for National Audubon members – Janet had to create a second mailing list for those members, which was sent to Lora Tuesday. Email copy went out.

Website:

Field trips, programs are up except for a few details, seed sale is posted too

Field trips:

Two new overnight trips per Susan Schuller: Cranes on the Platte River, Neb., and Crex Meadows next June. Proposed increasing attendee registration for Saw-whet Owl banding from 12 to 20.

Publicity:

Programs are posted on Facebook, seed sale needs to be published.

Membership:

Janet fixed mailing list issue.

Education:

Covered previously under grant awards.

Conservation:

Ned would like the board to consider what kind of conservation report we want and make suggestions at our next meeting. He welcomed anyone else who might want to take over the Conservation post.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted by

Janet Smith