Meeting Minutes 1/10/2024

Meeting started 6:35 pm

Discussion

- Service
    - What gifts and talents do you bring to the board; are they being utilized?
        - Talents/skills: web/graphic design, marketing, education, nonprofit, historical perspective
        - 4 people think skills utilized; 6 no or didn't answer
    - Why did you join the board?
        - Passion for birding/conservation
        - Impact community, saw value working with group of likeminded people
    - What is the best part of being on the board?
        - Community/camaraderie
        - Learn from like-minded (bird) people

- Present
    - What does ALAS do well?
        - Environmentally focused field trips/speakers, family events & programming (in person and online for accessibility)
        - Positive atmosphere, enthusiastic hosts
        - Newsletter
    - What's the biggest value ALAS brings to the community?
        - Environmental awareness
        - Provide grants
        - Community involvement
    - What should we be doing differently?
        - Focus more on young adults
        - Meet less frequently/vary meeting format of meetings
        - Coordinate volunteers
        - Coordinate with other groups, incorporate more technology, better self promotion
    - Is there something we should not be doing?
        - Should spend less time in meetings
        - More locally focused meetings

- Future
    - What should the board be doing in the next 2 years?
        - Monthly birding report column in newsletter/blog for this region
        - Develop volunteer list for projects & report on projects at meetings
        - Inform community on important current environmental issues on all levels (state, federal; going on programs like WPR, etc.)
    - What should the board be doing in the next 5 years?
        - Recruit new, younger board members

        - Connect with other environmental orgs w/similar missions
        - Continue funding bird/conservation projects; expand if possible
    - What has ALAS done well historically?
        - New leaders/new visions & perspectives

- General
    - Should we consider raising the conversation about changing the organization name?
        - 7 yes; 3 no; 2 not sure
    - What does ALAS do?
        - Newsletter, website, Facebook, YouTube channel
        - 8 programs/presentations per year, 6-8 field trips per year, Mead Family Fall Fest/Family Field Day, Boston School Forest Earth Day
        - Christmas bird count, Bird City, Safe Passages program, Bird Friendly Tree Project, Bird banding for World Migratory Bird Day, Bluebird Trails, Jr. Audubon, participate in statewide Audubon chapters
        - Cozy prairie project, Master Gardener partnership/tabling at garden parade, native yard tour/Lawns Gone Native
        - Scholarships, publish books, donate to other orgs (Kestrel project, REGI, etc.), birdseed sale
    - Should our documents be more easily accessible?
        - Get bylaws/constitution on website
        - Store meeting minutes in Google Drive
    - One or two goals for 2024?
        - Monthly bird report
        - Volunteer list
        - Continue bird walks & improve involvement/promotion for Great Backyard Bird Count and Birdathon

Approval of minutes

- With edits motion carries; approved

Members Present

- Karen Dostal - President
- Ned Grossnickle - Conservation
- Rob Pendergast - New Member
- Susan Schuller - Vice President
- Brad Baum - Field Trip Chair
- Janet Smith - Membership
- Anne Graham - Emeritus
- Larry Graham - Emeritus
- Jenny Christopher - Website
- Willow Pingel - Secretary
- Joe Schulz - Former Secretary

- Jan Seiler - Treasurer
- Jackie Mather - Member

Announcements

- Bob Lane's mini-grant program
    - Balsam Firs at Boston School Forest - asking for $275
        - Motion carries; approved
    - John dropped off paintings; could put up on website or announce at programs; see if people are interested

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm