



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

October 23, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Bonnie Anderson, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz, Mark Newell, Scott Owen, Michelle Scholz, Willem Stoeller, Irene Vlach.

Excused: Gary Fawver, Keith Mays, Michelle Miller, Sharon Miller, Peter Paquet, Ed Squiers.

USFW staff: Larry Klimek, Eva Kristofik, Kim Strassburg

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda:

1. Michelle
2. Alan

Passed, with all in favor.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the minutes:

1. Willem
2. Dawn

Passed with all in favor.

B. Financial Reports

- The position of the habitat restoration coordinator is not yet fully funded.
- Dawn raised the question of the amount of fees we are being charged by the credit card companies, in the order of \$3,500 for last fiscal year, substantially above the \$150 we had budgeted for. Cheryl will discuss the issue with the store committee.

C. Visitor Services Report

D. Env. Ed/Volunteer Naturalist Report

E. Restoration Report

F. Membership Committee Report

Michelle reported that Dawn, Bonnie and herself met in October to set up a structure to appeal to people to join the membership strategy committee. She posted an invitation on the Friends' website to attend a meeting on November 1, at the Refuge.

Larry is ok with an appeal in the volunteers newsletter to encourage all volunteers to become members, as many volunteers actually are not members of the Friends. Only the store volunteers are required to be members, because of liability related to handling money.

Tom inquired whether there are ways to become a member short of paying the fee. Mark pointed out that the financial report shows complimentary memberships: they were issued for the temporary volunteers and Rachel Dunham (former staff).

These issues will be discussed in the membership committee.

G. Advocacy report

Motion to approve the consent agenda:

1. Cheryl
2. Alan

Passed with all in favor.

IV. Report

A. New Hires

Andrew DelGreco – Interpretive Coordinator

Tiffany Mancillas – Env. Ed. Specialist

Both started 2 weeks ago.

V. New Business

A. Election of officers:

President: Mark Newell
President Elect: Alan Christensen
Treasurer – Willem Stoeller
Secretary: Irene Vlach
Past President: OPEN

Discussion: Mark asked the other board members for their commitment to help.

Motion to approve the slate of proposed officers with the addition of Tom as Past President:

1. Cheryl
2. Dawn

Passed with all in favor.

B. New Board Members:

Bird Festival Committee – Scott Owen. Scott also is a member of the Environment Education Committee.
Membership Committee – Michelle Scholz.

C. Mentor Program

Our application for the Friends mentoring program was accepted and a first conference call was held on Oct. 15. Eva, Tom Mark and Alan were on the call with Paul Tritaic, Project Manager at Ding Darling NWR, Florida, and Kathy Woodward, Board member at Friends of Big Swamp NWR, NJ (shadowing) and Ann Bloxom Smith, VP at Friends of Blackwater Bayou NWR, LA.

The people on the call agreed to pursue this with the full board. We need to complete a life cycle document before the next board meeting. The mentors want to know more about our organization, how we interact with USFW. Tom will transcribe the notes from the call into an Excel workbook. The board will review them before they will be presented to the mentoring group. He will send a copy of our strategic plan to the mentors. Bonnie will send other missing documents as well as the SWOT analysis. We will meet with the mentors in the winter over 2 days (a Friday and a Saturday, including Saturday evening). All board members need to commit to participate.

Mark will send out a doodle poll to set dates.

Meanwhile we will have to develop priorities for the program. We should revisit our application to possibly revisit the priorities that might have changed in the meantime.

Tom will send the application to all board members.

The goal of this process is to strengthen the board and its relationship with USFW. Furthermore, our challenges and how we meet them will in turn help other Friends organizations.

Motion to move forward with the mentoring program:

1. Michelle

2. Willem

Passed with all in favor.

D. Photo Society

The Photo Society is an entity of the Friends, like a committee and as such it must have a board liaison. That means that at least one member of the Photo Society must be a member of the Friends as well as a Board member. The Society should become a formal committee, with a charter.

Tom will ask Pam Farris and Bjorn Fredrickson to meet with him and Willem to discuss options for the Society: either become a committee of the Friends or become a separate group/organization. They will highlight the benefits of being a committee of the Friends. We also need to clarify what benefits we can draw from the Society. Kim will look for documents about the creation and the role of the Society.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Board training – process/date? Willem reminded the board that we have budgeted funds for such training.

Binder distribution - in progress

- B. Should we partner with Ridgefield and Gorge Stewards for a fund-raising event?

Bonnie met with people from Ridgefield and Steigerwald. They explored the idea of doing a common fundraiser. We need to establish a goal for the fundraiser, i.e. what the funds would be applied to. The eventual division of the funds would also have to be decided.

Motion to investigate a joint fundraiser with Ridgefield and Steigerwald:

1. Tom
2. Mark

Passed with all in favor

VII. FWS Update

A . Kim Strassburg - Urban program

Despite uncertainties with respect to the Service's current priorities, much has been happening over the last 6-24 months. TRNWR is one of the priority refuges. Sept. 29 was the first ever Urban Refuge Day and we hosted over 300 people. Congress passed a resolution on Urban Refuges and a Secretarial order might follow. Bonnie will attend a 3 day conference with other urban Friends groups. Locally the program helps with transportation assistance for outreach to schools and community groups. It contributed to Bird Fest. The program strives to engage new audiences in new ways and to become more culturally competent. Together with The Intertwine Alliance, they invested in equity and inclusion training.

VIII. Other

Larry is currently working on the annual work plan. He will share it with us when it is completed. There will be many major projects: bridges, pumping station, trails at Wapato.

IX. Announcements

- A. Report volunteers hours to Bonnie
- B. Send e-newsletter articles to Bonnie no later than Oct. 30.
- C. Next meeting: Novembert 27.

Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 20, at 5pm at the Refuge.

D. Bonnie suggested we meet in December with members from the Friends' groups of Ridgefield and Steigerwald. We have \$1,000 budgeted for such an occasion. We need to build trust and learn from each other. We will decide on such a meeting after the next mentoring call which will be held on Oct. 29th at 9am.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn:

1. Cheryl
2. Tom

Passed with all in favor.

XI. Closed Session

There was no closed session.