

## Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

December 3, 2018

Minutes prepared by Pam Willison, substitute secretary

In attendance: Kay Mitchell, Carole Jorgenson, Darrick Rathe, Rod Walette, Jan Metzmaker, Corey Davis, Kathy Ross, Diane Boyd, Gail Linne, Bob Lee, Joe Batts, Jake Bramante, Mike Fanning, Pam Willison, Gael Bissell

Others: Denny Olson, Jill Fanning

Meeting called to order by Kay Mitchell, President at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: Mike motion to approve, Kathy second, approved

Financials: no questions

Treasurers Report by Joe: no unusual expenses, collections are coming in for the fund raiser.

Jan motion to approve, Darrick second, approved.

Orientation meeting: Darrick, Carole, Pam, Rod, Jake, Bob, Joe, Diane, Cory  
Kay will send an email for an evening meeting in the near future.

Kay mentioned Girls Who Code: 4-6th graders who want to make an app of our bird CD, making it downloadable for mobile use. It may take them a couple years to complete. Three girls are working on our specific project. They are working on a smaller version first.

Tentatively a memorial is scheduled for February 17, 2019 for Lois Drobish at Glacier Unitarian Universal Fellowship. Potluck at 11:30 am and service at 12:00. A small article will appear in the Pileated Post next month about her passing and her sons accepting her certificate of appreciation.

There was discussion about creating a memorial in OSNA or the West Valley viewing area, or holding a volunteer day in her honor.

Jill mentioned the dark solstice celebration in Lawrence Park, December 21 at 5:30 pm (?). Audubon was a participant and publicity sponsor last year and she is asking if we will do it again. Mike motion to participate, Carole second, passed. Carole volunteered to do the Audubon presentation.

Conservation Education Report: Denny recapped the message he sent last week about the possible Murdock Foundation grant to be used to start a new mentoring program between older and younger students. Denny is inquiring whether we are interested in doing it. Kay would like this to start with a proposal that would spell out some of the details and consider it over the next few months. Jake asked what items in the education activities would need to be dropped to make room for this large of a project and Denny says he can't answer that right now. Denny says we would start with goals and objectives and will have a meeting with all the principals in the near

future to see if they would be willing participants and what grade level would be appropriate. He suggests we go slow and do some fact finding, and then do some brain-storming about curriculum as it's a complex project. Gail feels we should start with our group and have an outline of the project before meeting with principals. Mike believes we should not miss this opportunity and should pursue the development. Kay mentioned that our license for OSNA is up in about a year and half, so if OSNA is key to the project, we need to be sure we have the lease renewed. Kay asked that Denny work with the Education Committee (and anyone else interested) to gather some basics, meet with the principals, and then have a report at the January board meeting. Denny wonders if the ambassadors might be able to cover some of his activities which are just PR activities (Arbor Day, Earth Day). Gael wonders if the grant needs to cover an additional half-time or three-quarter time person and Denny reminds that a Murdock grant will not fund any staff unless they are half-time or more.

A short Executive Session was called by Kay. Mike moved to adjourn meeting, Jake seconded, meeting was adjourned.

Board meeting was called back to order at 7:00.

Committee reports:

Membership: Mike reported over 170 members. There still should be 20-30 more and some are still renewing. Joe says we are about equal to last year.

Grants: Gael reported on their meeting:

\*They talked about the mentorship program and funding through the Murdock Foundation.

\*They discussed the 3-minute videos by Denny and BJ as outreach tools and the Cross Foundation will meet this week and we should get a letter by the end of the week about funding this project.

\*They discussed funding for Jewel Basin Hawk Watch to ensure we get about 35 guaranteed count days. Also discussion about more support through the Forest Service for using the cabin or a wall tent so observers could stay up near the hawk watch site. They also would like to get a student to analyze the past 10 years of data.

\*OSNA could use some funding for the development of the new trail - RTP is an avenue being investigated by Darrick (\$3-5000). Denny mentioned that some work could be done on the other bridges or new bridges in low areas. Bob says work is needed on the gates and fencing. Darrick and Bob will try to do a walk through so Darrick can see the needs.

\*Denny also mentioned contacting the manager of the new REI as they have funding for community programs similar to Hawk Watch or OSNA. Jake and Gael will talk to the new managers at REI.

\*West Valley viewing area: Flathead Land Trust is initiating some education programs there and a native plant area. Gael will be meeting with some people from FWP about where they need help. Denny is working with Laura of Flathead Land Trust on the education aspect.

Newsletter: list of contents were in packet - no questions.

Chapter Security:

\*Joe briefed the board about the security of our accounts, how data is stored and secured, how passwords and user names are developed.

\*Jake briefed the board on digital security relating to the web sites.

Kay reported that charitable donations are way down this year because charitable deductions do not benefit people on their tax returns due of the new larger standard deduction. It's affecting non-profit organizations all across the US. However, Montana has not changed anything, so you can itemize and receive a tax benefit from charitable donations. She reviewed some donations strategies that might help people find a more beneficial way to donate to FAS.

Kay opened discussion about the new Flathead Land Trust project. They presented last month and asked us to be active participants. Laura will be doing a short presentation at the January general meeting. We will be in support of the project and deal with their requests for specific actions as they arise.

Remember to donate for the End of Year Board Challenge.

Diane mentioned that it's difficult for her to make the meetings and wondered whether she should remain on the board. She was encouraged to remain on the board.

Jake encourages everyone to check the website as there have been many changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.