

PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2020

The PSO Board of Directors conducted a teleconference meeting with the following members participating: Eli DePaulis, Mike Fialkovich, Vern Gauthier, Deb Grove, Greg Grove, Frank Haas, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Laura Jackson, Chad Kauffman, Wayne Laubscher, Sandy Lockerman, Evan Mann, Holly Merker, Emily Thomas, Linda Wagner, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Minutes – Roger

Roger distributed the minutes of the January 28 meeting prior to this meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Frank

Frank sent out the treasurer's report by email on March 31. Please see his email for details.

Evan began the meeting by leading a discussion about how we should respond to Covid 19 with regard to our planned activities. Should we cancel our activities as other organizations have, such as the Biggest Week and the Erie Birding Festival? Eight or nine teams have already been formed that have raised money for the B4C. Some questions that need to be answered are: Will Covid 19 still be around in June? Does PSO still promote conducting the B4C in June? What would be the message that we are sending if we go forward with the B4C?

Vern said that he thinks we should cancel the B4C just to show that we care. Everyone agreed that the B4C should be canceled for this year. It was suggested that we do it next year and try to make improvements to the B4C website and get more sponsors. Evan thought we should put an explanation on the B4C website why we are canceling it. Vern would like to hold any donations that have been received until next year and notify the donors that we are holding the money. If they object, we will return their donations to them. Laura will notify our partners that we are canceling the B4C this year but plan to have it next year.

Vern made a motion that the B4C be postponed until 2021 to be held at approximately the same time as it was scheduled this year. He is also proposing that any donations that have been received be held until next year unless the donors would like them returned. Carole seconded the motion which passed.

Chad will send out a notification on social media. Vern will contact the team leaders and keep them registered until next year.

PSO 2020 All Things Birds – Vern

Vern reported that all the field trip leaders are in place. He suggested that we wait to see how things work out with Covid 19 before we make a decision concerning PSO 2020. If necessary, we can move it to 2021. The venue, speakers, and exhibitors should be contacted to make them aware that we may cancel the meeting. He thinks we should have a good idea by the end of May regarding how things are going. If it is not clear by then, then he thinks that we should cancel the meeting until next year. The consensus was that we should begin to solicit for names for this year's awards. The decision on whether to hold PSO 2020 was put on hold until the May meeting.

Vern said that he will send the artwork for PSO 2020 to everyone. The Barn Owl will be the bird of the meeting.

Student Research Grants – Deb

No one has applied for the Student Research Grant yet. One person is interested and is working on it.

Pennsylvania Birds – Greg

Greg said that the next issue of Pennsylvania Birds is almost ready. Frank said that the printer is up and running.

With no further business to conduct, Evan declared the meeting to be at an end at 7:09.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary