

# PSO Board of Directors' Teleconference Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2021

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, Evan Mann, Holly Merker, Linda Wagner, Carole Winslow, and David Yeany. Evan called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

## Minutes – Evan

Evan began the meeting by asking for motions to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2020, and the January 26, 2021, meetings. Frank made the motions which Holly seconded to approve both sets of minutes.

## PORC – Holly

Holly announced that David is the new PORC Chairperson. Holly and Greg have both completed two terms and will be leaving PORC. Scott Stoleson and Julia Plummer will be replacing them. Holly reiterated that Tessa Rhinehart is doing an excellent job as PORC secretary. David mentioned that Frank is designing a searchable database for all PORC records. It should be operational within the next few weeks.

## American Bird Conservancy – Frank

Frank said that he has received a request for a donation from the ABC. PSO donated \$100 to them last year, and he questioned whether we want to do the same this year. After a brief discussion we decided to make it an annual donation. Chad made a motion to donate \$100 to ABC every year which David seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## PSO Board Membership – Evan

Because we canceled the annual meetings for 2020 and 2021, the election of officers and board members has not been held. Terms of officers and some board members have expired or will expire this year. Evan gave a rundown on the status of all the board members as follows:

Members whose terms expire next year

- Eli
- Chad
- Carole
- David (see below)

Members who do not have term limits due to their unique positions on the board

- David – PORC Chairperson
- Margaret – Newsletter Editor
- Greg – Pennsylvania Birds Editor

Officers

- Evan – Will move on to past-president
- Deb – Will remain as vice-president
- Roger – Will remain as secretary
- Frank – Will remain as treasurer
- Mike – Will step down as past-president and go off the board

Members whose terms have expired or will expire this year

- Vern – He will step down when the vacant position he is filling is filled by the election of a new board member. He will continue helping with the B4C and other projects
- Sandy – Will step down but will continue to gather the information for the COAs
- Holly – Will step down
- Doug – Will continue on the board if reelected
- Laura – Will continue on the board if reelected and continue as Conservation Committee Chairperson
- Wayne – Will continue on the board if reelected
- Emily – Will continue on the board if reelected
- Linda – Will continue on the board if reelected

After some discussion we decided to have board members' terms run from meeting to meeting which is when elections are normally conducted.

A list of possible board members and officers was then compiled. The possible candidates suggested were: Brian Byrnes, John Carter, Annette Mathes, Julia Plummer, Tessa Rhinehart, Bobby Brown, David Brown, David Trentley, Derrick Stoner, Andy Kiester, Joe Gyekis, Mike Plyler, and Tony DeSantis. Mary Birdsong and Sarah Sargent were later added.

Additional discussion regarded voting logistics, the need for some type of annual meeting, the need to advertise for potential board members with particular skills, etc. The following is a summation, to the best of my ability, of the discussions which took place.

Some of the discussion centered around how to conduct a vote for board members. Some suggestions included having a zoom meeting, mail-in ballots, the use of a doodle vote, use of a newsletter insert, or a vote by email. It was noted that to have a quorum, we need to have 10% of our 453 members present for a legal election. Concern was expressed that enough members might not attend a zoom meeting just to vote for the board of directors. The vote would be taken in the fall some time. This vote would need to be affirmed at the next face-to-face meeting of the membership.

Discussion continued regarding posting an announcement on various social media sites, the listserv, and email asking for persons interested in serving on the board. Chad and Carole, who are on the Membership Committee, will post the announcement written by Evan and Deb, and be the contact people for any responses. They would then forward the names to the Search Committee composed of Evan, Deb, and David. The announcement would be specific to the qualifications needed for particular committees. It was suggested that we contact the list of people already suggested first to see what response we get from the people we know, then ask for other candidates as described above. There was disagreement concerning whom we should accept for the board. Some felt we should be selective and only accept candidates with specific qualifications and backgrounds versus accepting anyone who is interested in committing time to the board. In addition, it was mentioned that we should consider diversity on the board. It was suggested that someone talk to Tykee James or other birders in the Philadelphia area to determine if we can find someone who is willing to serve on the board. It was also suggested that we have the vote completed and ready to be announced by fall.

The idea of a virtual meeting open to the public was put forward. It would include a program to keep the interest of our members and maybe interest other nonmembers to join PSO. This would also be an opportunity to announce the results of the election.

### **B4C – Vern**

Vern said the preparations for the B4C are going well. We have already reached 15% of our \$5000 goal and have had new teams sign up.

## **Research Scholarships – Deb**

Deb said that three research proposals have been received this year. She asked if PSO could give at least two \$500 scholarships this year. The general consensus was that would be fine.

With no additional business to conduct, Frank made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Vern at 8:16.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Higbee, Secretary