

Minutes of PSO Board of Directors Meeting May 8, 2024

Directors Present: Dan Brauning, Frank Haas, Brian Byrnes, Laura Jackson, David Barber, Mary Alice Koeneke, Jeff Kenney, Julia Plummer, Doug Wentzel, Wayne Laubscher

Directors Absent: Chelsea Beck, Tony DeSantis, Valerie Dunn, Emily Thomas, Karter Witmer, Nathan Weyandt

Invited guest: Kaitlyn Stouch, Newsletter Editor

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm – Dan Brauning. A quorum was present.

- **Motion to approve the March 2024 minutes passed unanimously.**

Festival update- Brian Byrnes

- Registration numbers have stalled compared to prior years' events. We have 95 paid registrants, not including invited speakers, scholarship winners/parents, award winners and sponsor tickets (National Aviary).
- There is a \$8000 minimum requirement for banquet food costs. Our current estimated food revenue is approximately \$6800. If we extend banquet registration and acquire approximately 30+ more banquet attendees, we would break even.
- All field trips have participants. Several are full but most still have vacancies.
- All speakers are confirmed.
- The Festival Committee will have a final meeting just prior to the festival.
- There are still some open tasks on the board member sign up email link.
- Dan posted an add on FaceBook to promote the event.

Update on the 2025 Festival to be held LeHigh County – a first for the PSO.

- Dan has reached out to the Tourism Bureau for locations/bids. All of the hotel rates are high compared to prior locations/hotel rates.
- There is a lot of enthusiasm about the site from the Lehigh Valley Audubon Chapter.
- We need to confirm the date: May 9 -11 or May 16 – 18 are possibilities. We need to weigh in on the impact of conflicts with the Cape May Bird Observatory Festival, Mother's Day, the eBird Global Big Day of Birding and local college graduations.
- Dan will circulate a list of the pros and cons of all May dates for feedback and a vote by email.
- Frank is curating an extensive list of the tasks involved in Annual Festival planning: a "How To" guide. It would be helpful to have Committee chairs contribute.

Nominating Process – Carolyn Hendricks

- The slate of nominees for new directors, directors up for reelection and officers have been finalized in preparation for the Annual Meeting.
- Frank has emailed the bird bios for the directors up for reelection to the membership.
- A quorum is required for the voting process; 10% of the members represents 55 voting members.

Education Committee – no report

- Tony is stepping down from the board; a new Committee chair will be designated after the new directors join the board.

Birding Blitz – Laura Jackson

- The Blitz demonstrates PSO's commitment to conservation at the local level. \$20,240 is our goal for this year.
- Several teams have registered for the Blitz. We have raised \$1500 so far which is relatively low for this time point. Shavers Creek and Juniata Valley Audubon have recently had some competitive birding activities which may have impacted the low number of registrations to date.
- If our finances permit it, Bryan proposed a motion for repeating our "up to \$1500" match for donations to get things rolling.

- **Motion to approve an up-to-\$1500 match for Blitz matches carried unanimously.**

Conservation Committee – Laura Jackson

- Laura proposed that PSO sign on to a letter on banning lead shot because of its impact on birds.
 - **Motion for PSO to sign on this letter carried unanimously.**

Finance Report – Frank Haas

- Our bank balance is robust but we may lose money on the Festival this year.
- Our operational costs have gone up, particularly our publications. The rising number of members accessing digital content has offset some of these costs. We need to consider raising our PSO membership dues to \$35, \$40, and \$50 and \$15/students for our various membership classes. The last increase in membership dues was implemented in 2011. Dan proposed **creating a Membership Dues subgroup** to study this issue. Mary Alice will provide some data that will help in this process.

Events and Field Trips – Jeff Kenney

- The Fulton County Spotlight was very successful with 133 species documented.
- There are several PSO field trips coming up through Hillstar.
- The next Spotlight will be held in Warren County in October 2024.

Newsletter – Kaitlyn Stouch

- Dan will be **soliciting write-ups about the Festival field trips** to be incorporated into the 1st newsletter after the Festival. Jeff Kenny agreed to write up his trip. The tentative deadline for submission of articles is June 15, 2024 for our July issue.

PORC – Julia Plummer

- No updates.

Bylaws update – Dan Brauning

- By consent, the Board accepted the correction of a clerical error in the term limits for officers and agreed to the posting of the new Bylaws on our web site.

New Business

The Board affirmed it's email vote to cosponsor of the Bird Friendly Buildings Public Forum organized by the Lancaster County Bird Club. The event will be webcast, including PSO's contribution of \$300.

- **Motion that PSO make a contribution of \$300 for cosponsorship passed unanimously**

Committee member task lists

- Laura proposed **creating a Google groups working document** for committee chairs to create a list of the activities/tasks our committees are responsible for.

Next meeting – Bryan will **poll the board members** on potential dates/times in July 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm – Dan Brauning

Minutes recorded by Carolyn Hendricks for Valerie Dunn