

FOB Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2015

Attendees: Board Members- Kelly Smith, Dub Lyon, Gary Caylor, Pat Wilkinson, Bill Carr; guests – Cathy Harrington, Sharon Macut; USFWS- Cindy Fronk, David Maple

- Dub called the meeting to order at 5:34pm
- Dub introduced Cindy Fronk, Rob Iski's replacement for Environmental Education
- Cathy gave an update on SparrowFest. 32 people are fully paid. They are coming from all over the US including California, North Carolina, and New York. Cathy is talking with Scott Parker about leading trips to Peaceful Springs. There will be no profits from this SparrowFest. There has been a little trouble working with the Resort and we will most likely not use them again. There are only two comps being offered for staff. That means two of the staff are comped and the other four are being paid for by SparrowFest. We did get the \$2500 deposit back. The board is invited to come to dinner but they have to pay for their own. It will be included in the bill that is charged to SparrowFest so board members pay their way by making a donation to SparrowFest. FWS is also invited. Cathy will send an email to the board with details. Chuck Sexton is unable to attend SparrowFest this year. David Maple has a book we purchase and give to the leaders as a volunteer appreciation for helping with SparrowFest (6 copies).
- Sharon invited the board to the Membership Committee's Mixer Tuesday, February 17 at 5:30pm at Francesco's in Marble Falls. It is a bring your own wine event. Everyone will walk/stand and mix for the first 30 minutes. The Friend's will provide hors d'oeuvres. Buttons and brochures will be available to hand out. David Maple is the scheduled speaker.
- Volunteer Hours – Cathy – Both FWS and FOB volunteer hours can be submitted online at the FOB website. If more categories are needed, let Cathy know so she can add them. The volunteer leader tells the volunteer to enter their hours on the website and send the FWS hours to Cindy and/or David. Anyone can input hours and one person can input them for multiple people.
- Previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion made by Pat, seconded by Kelly).
- Treasurer's Report – Pat – Pat has closed the books for the 2014 taxes. She passed around one copy of the budget and will post the final copy to the google drive for future reference as well as have copies at the next meeting. The sales tax has already been paid as well as the \$1000 NWRA donation. The 2015 budget was unanimously approved (motion made by Kelly, seconded by Bill C).

- Refuge Report – David – The decision to backfill Deborah's position has not been made and is not expected to be made for quite awhile. Sequestration is still in effect and the Service needs to cut 29 occupied positions in the region. David will be out for a 2 week law enforcement course for managers Feb 1-14 in Brunswick, GA. The he will be gone for a week to NCTC. David is going to be the speaker at a Feb 19th Williamson County Audubon meeting. Liberty Hill ISD called to ask for \$540 to help get 6 busloads of kids out to the refuge for field trips. The Friends paid for that out of a budgeted line item. David has rescinded the MOU to Travis Audubon for Peaceful Springs. The HQ turn lanes by TXDOT have no update on schedule. There were two people out last week to look at environmental items, but no schedule update has been given.
- There is a regional Friends Group call on January 29. Kelly will attend and take minutes for the group.
- Peaceful Springs – Dub- The Friends donated \$100,000 to the purchase of Peaceful Springs. Trust for Public Lands for the property. Dub is talking with Scott Parker to get access to the property for events and tours. The Friends needs to come up with ways to help pay off the \$1.3 million owed to TPL so the land can be permanently turned over to the refuge.
- Audit – Dub – The Friends needs to have an audit done because some of the grants we are going after require proof of a recent audit. Pat and Kelly will help try to find someone to do the audit pro-bono.
- Insurance – Dub – Our insurance lapses in early February. William Gannon no longer offers the policies we need so we have to look elsewhere. Dub has been getting quotes. Kelly will find the information from Brazoria NWR, Laguna Atascosa NWR and the NWRA regarding recent insurance purchases through Alliant.
- Grants – Kelly – The agreement for the technology grant has been sent to Kelly for review and approval. Kelly has taken photos of the information boards by the creek to send to a sign company for quotes to use for the diversity grant.
- Kiosks – Dub – a one panel kiosk was installed at the top of Warbler Vista near the restrooms. A five panel kiosk was installed at the bottom of the road to Warbler Vista. A single panel kiosk has been installed at Doe Skin. A three panel kiosk will be installed at HQ after we hear back from TXDOT.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:22pm (Pat made a motion, seconded by Gary).