Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

Jan 11, 2024

Attendees

Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Sharon Benjey Jared Gugnitz

- 1. Meeting called to order at 5:03 pm by John Imboden
- 2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathie Wiley, John Imboden, Sharon Benjey Jared Gugnitz
- 3. Approval of November meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes by Kirk Waterstripe, seconded by Kathie Wiley. Unanimously approved.
- 4. Agenda
 - a. Additional Items:
 - Nominating Committee committee should be formed to locate and persuade new board members. Must have at least one person from the board. Kathy Flegel will be the board representative for this committee. At the regular membership meeting, we will solicit other members.
 - ii. Participation in Green Elk Rapids
 - iii. Kathie motioned to approve the agenda, Sharon seconded. Unanimously approved
- 5. Introductory Comments
 - a. New President John Imboden talked about the things he will be focusing on during his presidency.
 - b. What will the future of this organization be? This will be the core question for the immediate future.
 - c. Must make sure we follow the proper process and modify bylaws for any changes we want to make.
 - d. Sharon would like to see our focus spread to nature in general, not just birds. Further discussions to be had on this topic.
 - e. 501(c)(3) status we are not currently an official non-profit organization. Do we want to be? More discussions to be had on this topic.

f. Board members should think about these topics and come to the next meeting with suggestions.

- 6. Treasurer's Report Kathie Wiley
 - a. 2023 End of Year report
 - i. Beginning of year balance \$5,202.69
 - ii. EOY balance \$6,564.51
 - iii. Income from member dues: \$2,561.65
 - iv. Walter Hastings donations: \$506.63
 - v. Expenses from Main account: \$1,116.48
 - vi. Expenses from Walter Hastings: \$585.47
 - b. Current Bank balances
 - i. Main Account: \$5,394.72
 - ii. Walter Hastings: \$1,226.36
 - iii. Total Balance: \$6,621.08
 - c. Motion to accept Treasurer's report from Sharon Benjey, seconded by Kathy Flagel. Unanimously approved.
 - d. GTAC's bank account is with 4Front. Currently Kirk, Kathie, and Kathy have access to the account, and this will remain the case for 2024
- 7. Memberships
 - a. Currently 86 paid memberships, 40 past due, 5 lifetime, 7 officers
 - b. John Imboden's membership dues will be transferred to the Walter Hastings account
 - c. Past Due memberships
 - i. Are the past due members people who participate in the meetings? In general, no, but they may respond to a snail mailing. Last year we had good success with sending reminders through the mail to those who had not yet paid. Decision was made to send out a mailing to past due members.
- 8. 2024 Budget Kathie Wiley
 - a. Kathie distributed copies of the 2023 budget/expenditures and the proposed 2024 budget.
 - b. How much do we want to keep in cash reserves?
 - i. Members should think about it and come to the next meeting with ideas.
 - c. 2024 budget items
 - i. Kirk proposes we change the line item for National Audubon to be called Christmas Bird Count donation

- ii. Bird-a-thon going to omit this for this year's budget, and see how much income it generates (if we do it), and what we want to spend the money on
- iii. Mailing supplies raised from \$50 to \$100
- iv. Publicity amount is higher this year to allow us to have a banner created for events
- v. Remove Web Hosting line item in Donations
- vi. Moved all donations under the Donations heading with 2 subheaders: Recurring, Non-recurring
- vii. Motion by Kirk Waterstripe to approve the draft budget (with discussed amendments) for presentation to the general member meeting. Seconded by Kathie Wiley. Unanimously approved.
- 9. Speakers for member meetings
 - a. One of the three planned speakers for April cannot make it in April. Brian Allen and Nate Crane might be able to cover it. **Kirk to contact them and confirm.**
 - b. If the speakers for April fall through (or maybe at an open meeting in the fall), Sharon would like to see if MSU could come and talk about insects at one of our meetings. **Sharon to follow up on this.**
 - c. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy: Might be able to get them to come and do a session at one of the membership meetings in exchange for members helping with bird audits on their property. **Kirk to follow up on this.**
- 10. Secretarial Duties Jared Gugnitz
 - Jared has not put together a list of secretarial duties. Jared to send list to board members for consideration at the next meeting.
- 11. Update on Website
 - a. Kathie Wiley has learned how to update the website, and has updated the board members
 - b. Kathie to update the website with upcoming events. Board discussed which upcoming events to add to the website.
- 12. TADL Library Booth Makerfest 4/20/24 10AM 2PM
 - a. Need to get volunteers to sit at the table.
 - b. John to look into a table skirt with our name and logo
 - c. We could have bird box kits at our table. Need to research costs and getting someone to make the kits.

d. Kathie to contact TADL to get information about the details of our booth

- e. Also we will have information cards for GTAC
- f. Binocular demonstration
- 13. Green Elk Rapids 6/8/2024 11AM-2PM
 - a. Several nature organizations will be on the streets of downtown Elk Rapids. We have been invited to participate for free in exchange for publicizing the event. We need to find people to sit at the booth. Booth setup might be similar to whatever we decided on for the TADL event in April.
- 14. Agenda for January General membership meeting
 - a. Treasurer reports
 - b. Kathy Flegel will run this meeting in John's absence
 - c. Solicit members for the nominating committee
- 15. Discussion of agenda for next board meeting Feb 15 6-8 PM
 - a. Big Picture of what the club should be
 - b. Pros and Cons of becoming a non-profit
 - c. Cash reserve amounts
 - d. Liaison Duties and Role
 - e. Secretary Duties
 - f. Publicity Duties
 - g. Detroit birding trip
 - h. TADL Makerfest
 - i. Green Elk Rapids
- 16. Adjournment Kathie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kirk seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.