

Grand Traverse Audubon Club

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by John Imboden, President.

Roll Call:

Present: John Imboden, Kathy Flegel, Kirk Waterstripe, Kathie Wiley

Absent: Tom Comfort, Jared Gugnitz, Sharon Benjey

Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Kathie Wiley, 2nd by Kirk Waterstripe.

Unanimously approved.

Agenda:

Additional Items:

What to do about Purple Martin House donation offer

What to do about solicitation from Sleeping Bear Wildlife for funding for their bluebird nesting box projects.

Introductory Comments – John Imboden

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Accounting

Spending:

\$ 50.00 for honorarium for Dale Gidding presentation February 22, 2024.

\$ 100.00 for Boardman River Clean Sweep recurring donation.

\$ 150.00 for Boardman River Nature Center Bird Seed recurring donation.

\$ 201.00 for supplies for our booth for the upcoming MakerFest event.

After the above expenditures:

\$ 5464.32 in our main account

\$ 1332.46 in the Walter Hastings Environmental Education Fund

\$ 6796.78 Total

Treasurer's report (cont.)

Membership:

Last year, after cancellations for non-payment, we had 106 members. This year, after canceling 13 non-payment and one out of area move, we have 129 members.

(We had 143 members before the cancellations,) Therefore, we ended with a 90% retention rate, which is excellent.

Jared made the appropriate cancellations on March 4th.

The Membership Directory proof with corrections will go to the publisher for updates tomorrow and a new proof should be available the beginning of next week. The final Membership Directory should be done the end of next week and distributed to the membership.

Certificate of Deposit Information

At our last Board Meeting, Kathie was tasked with obtaining information about Certificate of Deposit rates and minimums in order for the Board to make a decision concerning the funds we have over and above our agreed upon GTAC financial reserve.

Currently:

A \$1000.00 minimum to open a CD.

6 mos. 2.70%

12 mos. 4.1%

18 mos. 4.1%

24 mos. 4.1%

John made the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Kathy F. 2nd the motion. Unanimously approved.

The Board decided to immediately act on this information. Kathie will secure a CD on behalf of GTAC in the amount of \$2000.00 for 24 months to lock in that rate. John made the motion, Kirk 2nd it. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

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MakerFest 2024: Special Earth Day Edition on April 20th from 10:00 to 2:00

Our booth preparedness:

We have:

Business Card Holders

Flier stands

Rack Card stands

Table Skirt

Raffle Tickets

Blue Bird Nesting Box assembled in place of fishbowl for raffle tickets
(need doily or some other item to protect the tablecloth under it)

Hats for sale

We'll need:

Some small felt, doily, or cloth to protect the tablecloth under the Bird Box
Fliers for the raffle and for the binocular workshop (Kathie offered her husband, Tim, could help with that as he has appropriate software and skills)

Snacks to entice people to the booth.

We have about \$40.00 left in the budget if we need it for any other incidentals.

Booth persons so far:

Kathie – All day (set up at 9:00, event 10:00 to 2:00)

John Imboden (set up at 9:00, event 10:00 to 12:00)

Kirk to provide Binocular Demonstration at 1:00

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Nature Fest – Elk Rapids – June 8th from 11:00 to 2:00

We'll have all the supplies above.

We will need to bring a 6' table.

We will need to bring chairs.

A tent cover if we want one due to out-of-doors.

We will need to bring snacks to entice folks.

If we run through several Rack Cards at MakerFest, it is only a 3-to-4-day turnaround for re-printing according to our printing vendor, Copy Central.

Kirk may hold a Bird Walk that morning.

Booth persons so far:

Kathie – All day (set up at 10:00, event 11:00 to 2:00)

Kirk, just for bird walk, has plans that day

Kathie will try to solicit a couple of volunteers.

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Survey Results:

Very clear from the response concerning our first question about the 501C3 interest from our members that it is not a priority for them to have us change our status at this time. The Board, therefore, is choosing not to move forward with this idea for now and may examine it in another year or two. In the meantime, if we see an opportunity that we feel would make it advantageous to change or an opportunity presents itself, we will revisit obtaining non-profit status at that time.

The other results of the survey in ranking from responses:

1. Education was the highest ranking
2. Citizen Science
3. Maintain & Improve Fiscal Health
4. Conservation Efforts
5. Social Events

A more detailed survey report will be disseminated to our members in the next couple of weeks.

The results are inspiring the Board to rethink some of the past priorities, such as the Annual Membership Meeting held in October. Perhaps changes should be made if they are not interested in the social aspect of our meetings.

New Business

Cherry Festival:

Kathie let the others know for a nominal processing fee of \$30.00, we could secure a spot at Darrow Park, across from West End Beach, for a vendor table for one of the Cherry Festival most attended days.

Thoughts were that the park might be a sink for excavation machinery due to major construction along Grandview Parkway.

In addition, the festival attendees would be distracted by the Air Show and would not be a good fit for interest in our club. We decided to move on to something else that may be a better fit.

It was decided that Kathie would investigate the application and fee process of having a presence at Friday Night Live, where people are more likely to show and interest in what our club has to offer.

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John presented his Presidential Officer description to us. It is brief and to the point. See Addendum 1. We discussed adding our long form of our officer descriptions at an addendum to the Club By Laws, but then decided to have the long form descriptions added to a future GTAC Guidelines that we'll create soon to help those club officers elected in the future. We then discussed inserting the condensed version of our officer descriptions that Kirk wrote up in a September 2022 newsletter to our By Laws.

We then discussed including the Mission Statement that Kirk came up with recently on our website and Club By Laws. See Addendum 2

Planning:

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Kirk let us know that the loon platform for the Boardman Lake that Nate Crane was working on is now going to be headed up by the local Eagle Scouts. They will be working with the DNR on placement & permits.

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Kirk let us know that he is still trying to secure Brian Allen, Nate Crane, and Matt Winkler to do a presentation at a fall Membership Meeting from their trip to Peru.

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The date for the Third Annual Detroit Bird Alliance Bird, Bike, & Wine tour up here is September 14th. We'll be co-hosting the event again with a few of our volunteer members at spots along the Leelanau Tart Trail.

- In reciprocation: We may offer a field trip downstate during the time of the Hawkfest at Lake Erie Metropark on the weekend of September 21st.

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Kirk has been working with Scott Sneed to recruit a birding team to hold a birding event on Power Island. Transport is still being worked out, as we're waiting for the summer rangers to be in their positions. Tentative date: June 1st.

Additional business:

Kathy F will reach out to the Sleeping Bear Wildlife about their solicitation email for their Blue Bird Nesting Box project and find out more about them, possibly steer them to the Michigan Bluebird Society.

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Kirk will try to see about the condition of the Purple Martin House that David Williams is looking to donate to us.

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Next Meeting:

John let us know that his intent is for us to complete our revision of our By Laws this spring. We will send him any information and by law revision changes we've been discussing in the last year and ½ and will do so between now and our next meeting. That will be the focus of the meeting.

Next meeting: April 25th @ 6:00 at TADL
Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm

Submitted: Kathie Wiley