

Texas Ornithological Society Board Meeting November 17, 2022

Present on today's Zoom meeting call were Board Members Christine Turnbull, Byron Stone, John Berner, Susan Foster, DD Currie, Randy Pinkston, Romey Swanson, Frances Cerbins, and Membership Secretary, Judy Kestner. Board members not present were Kendra Kocab, Laura Wilson, and Clay Taylor.

1. **Minutes:**

Randy Pinkston moved to accept the minutes of the last board meeting as written. Seconded by Romey Swanson. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. **Spring Meeting:**

Regarding the Spring Meeting, DD Currie reported that she talked to the president of Fort Worth Audubon, Chuck Baskin. There was not much interest on his part, but it was not a firm no. Byron Stone thought that we needed to hear back from Fort Worth by the end of December, but DD felt no sense of urgency on their part. In the meantime, Susan Foster will contact Rhandy Helton about a possible meeting in Junction during the first two weekends in May. Byron Stone said that Kendra Kocab suggested TOS only hold one meeting per year. DD suggested a hybrid meeting, a number of Century Club trips to engage people. Byron said we should try to get a firmer answer from Fort Worth Audubon by December 1st. DD suggested a lower key meeting billed as a more sustainable meeting. Judy Kestner suggested Fort Clark Springs as a possible meeting location. Byron thinks that we should reach out to more receptive members of Fort Worth Audubon.

3. **January Meeting:**

Christine Turnbull reported that the planning was looking good. We will give board members a chance to reserve rooms early. The hotel contract is almost finalized.

4. **Treasurer position:**

Byron Stone talked to Laurie who is willing to take over the treasurer position. John Berner talked about buying online Quick Books. This would give Laurie access to our records. Judy Kestner added that Neon can synchronize with Quick Books. John will look into purchasing Quick Books.

5. **Treasurer's Report:**

John Berner filed our taxes. He will pay the Magic Ridge property tax. There was some sales tax due to t-shirt sales. This year's \$15,000 income is better than last year's income of \$9,000. There was \$11,966 in collections from Sabine Woods entrance fees. The Panama trip netted approximately \$10,000. TOS netted \$5,000 from the Shepler art auction. John Berner congratulated Judy Kestner on setting up Giving Tuesday. We received \$1,000 so far from that.

6. **Due Diligence Committee:**

Our last meeting was October 27th. Byron reported that we need a lot of help with many things in our organization. The majority opinion is that we need professional help to decide our mission statement. Byron Stone will reach out to Mission Capital. We need to begin a process of strategic planning with the assistance of a consultant to get us where we need to be. Frances Cerbins looked into our holding a retreat at the Shield Ranch. The price is \$1,200-\$1,400 to house and feed our board members for two days. Holding more trips will generate more revenue for our organization. Christine thinks we need to forge ahead with all these fundraising ideas. Christine suggested we have a line item for income from trips. John Berner said we should have someone planning trips in the future. Frances Cerbins said we need to add administrative fees into our budget for classes and trips. Christine Turnbull said we need to budget for staff salaries. Byron Stone thinks that \$70,000 is a goal for us. We will have a separate line item in the budget as a goal. Byron Stone said 50-75% of big trips would cover this. We discussed a number of revenue generating ideas such as giving Tuesday and end-of-year appeals as well as trips. Byron and Judy will put together an End-of-Year Appeal by December 14th.

7. **Website:**

Frances Cerbins reported that the new website will go live after the January meeting. Frances will send a link for us to look at it.

8. **Sanctuaries:**

Glen Olsen's landscape plan for Hooks Woods' revitalization is \$1,000+. Byron suggested we send the TOS membership a specific request for \$2,500 for landscape enhancement for birds, birders, and pollinators after Giving Tuesday.

The next board meeting re the budget will be Sunday, January 8th, at 2:30 p.m.