

**Texas Ornithological Society**  
**Zoom Board Meeting**  
**October 19, 2021**

Present at tonight's meeting were Randy Pinkston, John Berner, Christine Turnbull, Sheila Hargis, Gailon Brehm, Susan Foster, Byron Stone, Frances Cerbins, Laura Wilson, and DD Currie. Absent were Kendra Kocab and Clay Taylor.

The approval of last meeting's minutes was tabled until the next board meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by John Berner. He explained the line item regarding our website domain shows a big increase since he paid for ten years. Also, he listed Zoom classes' income and expenses as a separate listing.

Christine needs to talk to Judy about checking on the monthly Zoom charge. Susan talked to Judy who said it just needs to be turned off, and she can do that or anyone with the password can do that.

Investments Committee: Gailon Brehm presented our financial snapshot, which is solid and follows the inflation rate.

Nominating Committee: Gailon reported that there are four positions that need to be filled and the committee will try to fill them by January. Byron Stone added that we will need a reliable, enthusiastic secretary. John Berner would like to think about the Treasurer's position now and not wait for when his term is up.

Membership Committee: Frances Cerbins discussed their idea of adding additional newsletters to increase communication to the membership. Judy Kestner thinks she could do this on her own. Shelia suggested we standardize when newsletters come out. John Berner said that Brent Ortego suggested displaying a list of donors on our website permanently. This would make asking for money easier.

Archives: Let Randy Pinkston know if you are interested in meeting where archives are housed on a Saturday. Jack Eitniear is available. Randy will talk to Jack and plan on a Saturday in the next 4-6 weeks.

Sanctuaries:

Hooks Woods: Shelia Hargis talked about what we should do with the rest of the grant money which was left after putting in the bleachers. Approximately half of the grant remains. She suggested putting in real boards at the end of each boardwalk and to deal with the bench which is facing the wrong way. They are planning to plant some trees and shrubs on November 13. Susan Foster asked what is happening with the Steve Gross memorial. Shelia said that Dave Dolan has designed a blind but that it would require additional TOS money. Gailon Brehm thinks that Shelia Hargis should be relatively aggressive on the Steve Gross memorial. It has been eight years since Steve died, and many members have donated money to be put toward the memorial.

Magic Ridge: Byron Stone reported that we had our day in court and won. The house needs to be cleared out. Purchase of the small oak tree lot and swap is still in the works. Shelia Hargis thinks it is a good idea to let our membership know what is happening. DD asked if there would be a press release. Frances said we will report the progress in the newsletter and suggested that everything that goes on in our sanctuaries should go out in the newsletter. Byron Stone will write a rough draft

Sabine Woods: John Berner received a call from John Whittle who is concerned that certain individuals and tour groups are not paying the entrance fee. John Berner thinks we should raise the fee from \$8 to \$10. Shelia Hargis suggested sponsorship for tour groups. John Berner will draft a letter.

Texas Century Club: Dell Little spoke to the group about his willingness to administer the Century Club website. He is willing and enthusiastic to continue the Texas Century Club if David Sarkozi is not. Shelia Hargis asked if the TCC could be a page on our TOS website. John Berner will talk to David Sarkozi to see where he stands. Gailon Brehm wants to make clear that this is something that is important to the TOS Board.

Blucher Park: Judy Kestner sent the board an email asking us to write a letter protesting the planned development at Blucher Park, a well-known and important Corpus Christi birding hotspot. Susan Foster will resend the email for the board to read.

January Meeting: We discussed having a hybrid meeting in Abilene. We will have in-person field trips, but speakers will be via Zoom only. Also, there will be no banquet. There is a small crew of three volunteers in Abilene who are willing to provide expertise for field trips and hotels. Christine Turnbull, John Berner, Susan Foster, and Judy Kestner have volunteered to help with planning. Attendance will be limited to 60 participants for field trips. Discussed if we should have a centralized hotel. We will have a field trip package and a Zoom speaker package. We will not offer lunches. Jay Packer has support from landowners, etc. Looking at six field trips each day. There is

no parent organization. Byron Stone said a central hotel is important for field trip meet-ups and that we could recommend a hotel, but not book a block of rooms. Jay Packer will get a field trip list together. DD Currie suggested some place that is centralized for registration, which may or may not be a hotel. Sheila Hargis reminded us that we have a procedural document to guide us in planning the meeting. DD Currie asked if our insurance covers covid issues. We discussed checking proof of vaccinations in advance. We will have a planning committee meeting soon and will set up guidelines that the board can agree on. Christine will send an email for the planning committee meeting date. Dell and DD volunteered to lead field trips.

Mimm's Ranch, Marfa: DD Currie communicated with the landowner who would be willing to have us use the ranch for a weekender or a board retreat or whatever we would like. December-March is the time for Baird's Sparrows. There are hotels in Marfa and Presidio where we could stay. DD will plan a board event for us. Thanks, DD.