

Loess Hills Audubon Society Meeting
Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
3 October 2019

Members Present: Davd H., Paul R., Randy W., Jeri W., Jerry V., Donna P., Anne S., Rex R.

Members Absent: Dotty Z., Jody M., Dawn S.

Honored Guests: Anna R., John P., Sharon P., Jan N., Chuck J., Bob and Phyllis N., Bill Z., Maria R.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

6:15 pm

- I. Call to Order at 6:20 PM by David.
- II. Motion and second to approve minutes from September meeting. No discussion, corrections or modifications noted. Motion approved.
- III. Secretary's Report – Randy W.
 - A. Security discussion for board and committee members
 1. Text message from someone claiming to be David H.
 2. Request to purchase seven (7) Amazon gift cards for \$100 each
 3. This was a scam
 4. Some cards were purchased before the scam was identified
 5. Card information was not transmitted to the scammer.
 - B. How much should we list on the website or Facebook page ?
 - C. Do we need to consolidate the information to restrict access but also risk losing contact chances for new members?
 - D. Individual e-mail accounts are all ready well known, not just from LHAS-related sites.
 - E. An e-mail will be sent to the chapter about the scam and that our board/committee members would not use such a text approach to request funds or services.
- IV. President – David H.
 - A. Grants from NAS are available for various projects
 1. Requirements are available online from NAS
 2. Grant application due date is 15 November
 3. May not be able to take advantage of the grants this year
 4. We need to get committees together first and get them active
 5. Will work with Jody M. when we get to that point.
 - B. We do not need to have a board meeting every month. Do we need to have a "Committee Month"? See below in New Business.
- V. Vice-President – Paul R.
 - A. Report submitted by e-mail.
 - B. Paul and Anna will miss the November meeting.
 1. Need someone to introduce our November speaker, Bruce Ehresman, and his program regarding bird nests.
 2. Someone will need to meet him, probably offer him a meal, and arrange the hardware (Computer? Audio? Other connections? Tables or display space?) that may be needed for his program.

3. Paul R has more specific information for our speaker, contact him if you wish to help
 - C. Graham McGaffin
 1. Scheduled as our 6 May 2020 speaker
 2. Topic is: „Iowa and China: More in common than Loess“ from the US-China Exchange on Loess Landforms (UCCELL), June 2019
 - D. 6 February 2020 program
 1. Bill Huser – Please note: Paul’s e-mail still had a few questions marks surrounding Bill’s name.
 2. The program would be about plant progression to climax community, land management and related topics.
 - E. More permanent nametags/badges
 1. They would be more permanent but would also require storage from one meeting to the next.
 2. Motion and second to have Paul R. investigate the cost for more permanent nametags/badges
 - a) Guests would still have a sticker name tag available for the program they attend.
 - b) Available for all current chapter members and board and committee members
 - c) Look at MailChimp to see who is reading the information, look at program sign up sheets and start there with permanent name tags.
 3. It was noted that NAS mailings really do not address membership. It’s about other worthy causes (and donations to help these causes), but they’re not about membership.
 - F. Progress being made to
 1. Clean up our membership database
 2. Produce an official roster
 3. We still have quite a few board and committee members that are not official NAS or LHAS paid-up members.
 4. Cheddar Up option for handling dues based on SC Camera Club experience
 - a) Randy W. will contact SCCC for more information
 - b) This could be possible option for online, chapter-only membership
 - G. Need to keep working on committee members and committee duties
 1. The work of the committee should not fall to one person, particularly the committee chair
 2. The chair of the committee is to coordinate the work other committee members are doing for that committee.
- VI. Treasurer – Jeri W.
- A. Credit - \$40
 - B. Debit - \$104.95
 - C. Balance - \$6523.73
 - D. An idea was suggested to invest in
 1. A “treasurer’s laptop”
 2. Or some accounting software for the chapter
 3. This could facilitate chapter finances
 4. No decision at this time, will move to a future meeting date
- VII. Membership Committee

- A. Donna P., Maria R., and Paul R.
 - B. Emails to welcome new members
 - C. Nametag badge work in progress
 - D. Chapter only membership is based on the calendar year, January to December
 - E. NAS membership is based on the information we receive from National Audubon
- VIII. Chapter Activities Committee – no official report but with the following discussion
- A. Dotty is the chair but other members are not yet determined?
 - B. “Committee Month”
 - 1. Good idea to have committee month to try and get everyone together.
 - 2. Have the committee chairs to contact people and have these potential committee members come in on the designated date and help chart the course of this chapter.
 - 3. The work of the committee should not fall to the chair.
 - 4. The chair coordinates the work others are doing for that committee.
 - 5. The Committee Pool list from the LHAS chapter retreat from 15 Jun 2019 will be re-sent to the board members and committee chairs. This was a preliminary list of potential committee workers and will be modified.
 - C. Paul R. will take care of the programs this season and at least start programs for next season. Any and all ideas are welcome.
- IX. Communications Committee – Anne S.
- A. Newsletter articles are needed by October 29
 - B. The committee seems to be relatively set for website, Facebook, MailChimp, information acquisition and information dispersal.
 - C. Website
 - 1. Information content is wonderful
 - 2. The site appears to be a little dated
 - 3. Wish to have more functionality and security, especially if we begin to offer online memberships
 - 4. Randy will look to see if NAS could provide a site, after all we are a chapter in good standing with NAS
 - 5. Is there another website host we could use?
 - 6. Could a new site provide:
 - a) A place to greet new visitors?
 - b) A secure site for membership transactions?
 - c) A separate area for LHAS members?
 - d) Still a separate site for committee/board member work?
 - e) Faster, more universal, interactive communication of bird hotline sightings?
 - 7. Digital communications department of Briar Cliff could possibly provide advice for LHAS?
 - 8. Motion and second to look into a newer website.
- X. Conservation Committee – Rex R.
- A. Email request from Rex for ideas
 - B. Here are some suggestions :
 - 1. Provide plants for monarch butterflies and/or other polinators at schools in the area.
 - 2. Sponsoring and supporting land acquisition

3. Support for the Iowa legislature to pass the Land and Water Legacy Act
 4. Grants from NAS/Iowa Ornithologists' Union to help conduct bird counts and surveys.
 5. Work toward reintroduction of a once common species
 6. Grant to establish a program to help train K-12 students in conservation
 7. Newsletter section on conservation in "More from Loess"
 8. Research/education/politics to reconnect prairies in the area
 9. Select an endangered species in the area and work for improved habitat
 10. Investigate requirement to make Sioux City a Bird-Friendly City
 11. Ideas to control litter in the Sioux City area
- XI. Projects Committee
- A. Still needs someone to chair the committee
 - B. This committee needs to coordinate the many of the activities of the chapter
 - C. This will also include functions for finance.
- XII. Old Business
- A. Discussions with those interested in serving
 - B. Need to form committees
 - C. Ideas for 1-3 tasks reasonable to accomplish this year per committee
- XIII. New Business
- A. Security – see discussion above in the President's section
 - B. Will try to designate a committee meeting for November
- XIV. Tabled Business
- XV. Adjourn at 7 :26 PM

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

7:30 pm

- I. Call to order at 7:33 PM
- II. Announcements
 - A. Membership review for LHAS-only and NAS membership
 - B. Next program – 7 November, Bruce Ehresman
 - C. Outing on Saturday to the Polifka residence and other locations
 - D. 2 Volunteers agreed to provide treats for the November meeting
- III. Recent sightings?
- IV. Intro of speaker - Terry Sohl - "Australia Birds and Wildlife"

Attendees: 35