



**Saint Paul Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2023
Ramsey County Public Library
Roseville, Minnesota**

Call to Order

The monthly St. Paul Audubon Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, December 4, 2023. President Greg Burnes called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Those attending were: Vice President Kiki Sonnen, Treasurer Jim Stout, Secretary Craig Cox, VP of Communications Martha Douglas, Neil Carlson, Monica Bryand, and Debbie Brown.

Greg thanked everyone for all the great work everyone has been doing. We are making progress on several fronts.

Recent Bird Sightings – Announcements

Board members shared their bird sightings.

Approval of November 06, 2023, Board Minutes

Kiki moved approval of the minutes. Neil seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurers Report

Jim provided the following update:

US Bank Checking	\$11,270
US Bank Savings	\$3,009
US Bank Certificate	\$25,549
TruStone Certificate	\$32,467
PayPal Account	\$1,004

Member/Donation Drive Update

Martha reported it had been a hectic fall. Waves of appeals for chapter membership and donations have gone out. Martha noted the self-mailer has gone out to all chapter members, national members, and donors. The self-mailer is far simpler and more approachable than our previous outreach using the annual report. The annual report is now online as well. The Cardinal has also gone out. The word about our new Chapter Membership option has been going out in several ways with a good response.

Greg thanked Martha for all her work on the member and donation drive.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion

Greg distributed an updated version of our evolving DEI plan of action. The Board went through the draft, making suggestions for edits and changes in language and a deep discussion of the overall approach and purpose of the proposed work. The Board reached a consensus and a shared understanding of our goal and the outcomes we seek from this work. The Board agreed that we want to engage a consultant to help with this work. Greg will circulate the proposals from the three consultants we have had preliminary discussions with. We will decide which consultant to hire by the end of this month and begin our engagement with the selected consultant in January.

Monica reported that there is an opportunity to approach the Saint Paul Foundation to help fund this work.

Share “Big Ideas”

Jim offered that Rebecca had contacted him about her idea for a “Reclaiming the Audubon Woods” project. Preliminary ideas for action under the project include a formal trail through the woods, identification labels on trees, installation of vandal-proof bird feeders, and ongoing work to remove invasive species. The goal is to ecologically revitalize the woods and provide opportunities for people to learn more about birds and habitats. Rebecca will contact Greg to discuss how to proceed with this proposal.

Kiki suggested engaging with Three Rivers Parks and American Bird Conservancy around their idea of making Insects their big idea for the coming year.

Volunteer Recognition

Martha helped the Board understand the challenges of including recognition and a volunteer profile each month in the Cardinal. After further discussion, Greg, Martha, and Kiki volunteered to talk to propose a manageable approach to profiling and recognizing volunteers.

Grants Committee Update

The next meeting is on December 19th.

Conservation Committee Update

Debbie reported that the Conservation committee had a good meeting and plans to meet again in January. Monica noted a new project being developed to monitor and count Chimney Swifts and Common Nighthawks. Members and others will have the opportunity to participate in multiple ways. She indicated participants might call themselves the Chimney “Swifties”.

Motion to Adjourn

Greg moved to adjourn. Kiki seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 5 pm in the Roseville Library.