

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014 -- 6:00 PM
Panera Bread: Tiedeman Road @ I-480

Minutes based on e-mail reports by several attendees.

Present: Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles

1. Finances and Annual Appeal: Nancy Howell reported that the Dike 14/Doan Brook IBA utilized a little more money from their funds for replacing stakes that were damaged. IBA funds - \$2378.30, WCAS funds - \$23,101.21

2 a. Programs: Nancy Howell reported that programs are set with the exception of May and there is a possible May speaker.

2 b. Nancy Howell reported that the Christmas Bird Count will be December 28. Information went out in the newsletter - cover story. Nancy has been getting calls/emails for areas that are to be covered. Mary Anne Romito is updating the CBC portion of the website that indicates areas that need coverage and names of people covering those areas. The Rocky River Nature Center will be available to WCAS for the CBC dinner which will begin at 6 p.m. The food will be catered once again. Will order somewhat less food than last year.

2 c. December Potluck and Auction. Nancy reported that the potluck & program for December are set. Speaker is excited to talk with our group. Liz will get the Turkey and Ham from GFS

3. IBA Surveys: Nora Ebie

Sent draft of report Laura Gooch will be sending to Port Authority, GIAC, National Audubon, WCAS, and KBC. Board approved report.

4. Walton school: Nora Ebie and Stan Searles

Update from Michelle Manzo: The work under the grant continues with monthly events for the interested families. Last month there was a meeting at the zoo where two families, a total of 9 or 10 individuals participated. This month's event, a visit to Brookside Park, is scheduled for Wednesday. We have talked about some possibilities for activities over the winter - e.g. starting plants, but have no definite plans yet. Activities

will continue over winter and hopefully we will have developed a significant following by spring when we start work on the courtyard.

5. Tree Top Adventure Course in Strongsville: Nora Ebie

Presented Jay and Denise Coniam's email to board regarding their concerns over the Go Ape treetop adventure course being constructed near the Chalet in the Strongsville area of the Metropark. Coniams are requesting any opinion of what impact the Go Ape course may have on the bird habitat. They are concerned about the effect on nesting and feeding that the human activity and noise as well as the cables, cargo nets, zip lines and platforms in the trees, may cause. Additionally, if we think the birds may be negatively affected, they would like suggestions for remedies that could reduce the impact.

Board discussed project and decided that we will look at data and reply to them at that time. Mary Anne said she would gather the data and submit it to the board. Nora will respond to the Coniam's email.

6. Stan Searles reported a request from LEEDCo to add our support for Icebreaker Project

7. NAS Annual Report and WCAS Annual Plan

Nora has updated the chapter Annual Report, Financial Report, and the FY-2015 WCAS Annual Plan. Copies were e-mailed to Board members for approval before sending to National Audubon Society. Several Board members have offered corrections and additions. Nora will update, send to NAS and give Mary Anne a pdf of the report for the WCAS website.

8. Strategic Planning

Not discussed at this meeting, nor was it voted on; it was announced.

Due to a perceived lack of interest from some board members and apparent unwillingness to move this group forward, Nora announced that WCAS will not be pursuing strategic planning at this time.

9. Events:

April 1, 2015 program at Cleveland Museum of Natural History with Kirtland Bird Club & Audubon Society Greater Cleveland: Mary Anne reported that she got proposed expenses from Dave Dvorak, VP of KBC. They are as follows: Speaker fee \$500, Auditorium rental \$250, Motel \$100, Early Dinner Officers and Bill \$30. Officers on their own. Roughly the total cost will be \$900. Divided by 3 organization is \$300. Our board agreed this was acceptable. Even up to \$500.

10. Science Fair (NEOSEF) for 2015: Penny O'Connor reported later via e-mail. Penny asked if WCAS could offer Special Science Fair Awards at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair, March 10, 2015. Would like to send an e-blast to request volunteer judges. The time commitment is approximately 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Also would like to request to be able to award two prizes of \$100. As of this writing, several board members have said ok via e-mail

11. Cuyahoga County Sustainability Agenda: Penny reported via e-mail that the Cuyahoga County Council will likely hire a Sustainability officer. Penny left copies of Dale Miller's District 2 County Council newsletter which outlines some of his thoughts. This might be an avenue for WCAS to support some county-wide sustainability efforts or to propose some items.

12. Field Trips: Penny reported by e-mail that field trips are planned through March 2015.

Announcements:

Stan Searles has requested that his name be removed from the Chapter Leader Report as "Conservation Chair," as he is a committee of one, and feels that the interest of WCAS in conservation has waned in the past two years. Per his request Nora will remove his name as Conservation Chair.

Nora Ebie announced that she will be reducing the time she spends on daily WCAS business. She has taken a new job and is currently working on a contract-to-hire basis with no paid holidays or time off. She will be working more overtime, and faces increased travel time. She requests that fellow board members help as much as possible with day-to-day WCAS business, and also fill in for her if she is not able to arrive in time for monthly programs. She offered her work e-mail in case of urgent matters only.

Upcoming meetings:

NO DECEMBER MEETING

January 19, 2015, 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, Tiedeman Rd and I-480.

February 16, 2015, 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, Tiedeman Rd and I-480.