

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 25, 2006 WCAS BOARD MEETING

1. The WCAS board held its monthly meeting on June 25 at the Romito residence in Cleveland. Attendees included President Tom Romito, Treasurer Nancy Howell, and Directors-at-Large Mary Anne Romito, Terri Martincic, and Liz Clingman. Guests included June Cangey, Dave Angilante, Ellie Reagan, and Kathleen Tiburzi. IBA Coordinator Diane Sigler also attended.
2. FINANCES. Nancy reported on the financial statement for the budget year ending June 1.
3. PREMIUMS FOR NEW MEMBERS. Nancy suggested that we buy window clings for new basic chapter supporters. We can get 1,000 of them for \$500. The board voted to make this purchase. We only have a few patches left, and we decided not to order more at this time.
4. MINUTES. Since the secretary position is vacant, Tom said he would prepare the minutes and send them to the board members.
5. NEWSLETTER. In the absence of newsletter editor Kit Birch, Mary Anne showed the board members a draft of the upcoming newsletter and polled them for suggestions to improve it. We discussed content and decided to reformat the newsletter to make the content flow better. Mary Anne will work with Kit on the new design. During this discussion, a decision was made by the board to drop the enhanced category of membership dues, and to add an "additional donation" line.
6. WEB SITE. Webmaster Mary Anne has been making enhancements to the web site, particularly the IBA page. Mary Anne will change the "Join Us" to reflect the new membership changes. Terri Martincic praised Mary Anne for the great job she is doing it.
7. PROGRAMS. Program Chair Nancy reviewed the lineup for the 2006-2007 program year. The board approved the payment of fees to the speakers.
8. ROCKY RIVER WATERSHED FESTIVAL. Nancy said the Rocky River Watershed Council is going to host Rocky River Watershed Festival on Saturday, September 23 at Rocky River Nature Center. Nancy suggested that we have a presence at the event. To that end, Nancy said she would write a short article for the newsletter calling for volunteers to staff our table.
9. SILENT AUCTION. Mary Anne suggested that we hold a silent auction at the December meeting. The board approved this idea. The auction will be announced in the November newsletter and at membership meetings for people to bring their "new or gently used nature related items" for the auction.
10. THE ROCKPILE. Tom said that The Rockpile, a gardening and birding store in Avon, has asked that we hold a birding event there in the near future. Tom said he and store Bud Maxwell are going to talk again soon to plan the event. The board said the November-December time frame would be best. The event could consist of a class and bird walk on the habitat surrounding the store. We could bring extra newsletters for customers to take with them, and we could ask the owner for a donation.

11. GAAS PICNIC. Tom said Mark Purdy, president of Greater Akron Audubon Society, has invited the Audubon chapters in northeast Ohio to attend their picnic on June 27 at Bath Nature Preserve.

12. IBA APPRECIATION NIGHT. Tom said the consensus of the board is to hold IBA Appreciation Night on Thursday, August 31, at 6:00 p.m. Ken Gober agreed to let us use the Rocky River Nature Center. He said we can limit the event to IBA volunteers, but we have to bill it as an appreciation night and not a party. Stan Searles of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo offered to have Aramark cater the event at the Zoo's expense. Tom will ask Stan if the Zoo will offer a buffet dinner. Mary Anne is going to handle invitations. We will have mingling from 6:00-6:30, followed by dinner and a presentation by Tom. We will try to arrange for giveaways such as discount certificates or gift certificates from Earthwords.

13. FINAL IBA REPORT. Tom said he is going to prepare a report on our IBA project to send to our funders in September. They include Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and Audubon Ohio. We decided the report would contain a science component addressing selection criteria for the survey points, a tally of birds observed with appropriate conclusions, use of the data, and future areas to address. It will also contain a public component that addresses that key events leading up to and during the first season of monitoring, how we used the funds donated, how volunteers participated, and plans for the future.

14. IBA FUNDING. Diane said she would like to coordinate information on proposals for grants to fund next year's IBA project. She will provide drafts of all proposals she writes to the board for review.

15. PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR THE IBA. Diane said she would like to develop plans to publicize the IBA project. We discussed the following ways to do this: attend Rocky River Watershed Festival (have a table), write an article for the Emerald Necklace (Tom will write it), send executive summary of our final report to the Ohio Environmental Education Council, obtain IBA signs from Audubon Ohio (Nancy will pursue this), organize teacher workshops, ask Metroparks naturalists to tell people about it (attend a RRNC staff meeting).

16. STRATEGIC PLANNING. Mary Anne said we should hold a strategic planning to chart a course for the IBA project. We said February would be a good time to do this. We decided to ask Jerry Tinianow, Executive Director of Audubon Ohio, to facilitate this workshop.

17. CASUAL OBSERVATIONS. Tom announced IBA volunteer Glenda Buzzelli offered to coordinate a component of the IBA project called "casual observations." She will contact people who attended the April 2 training but have not participated to date. The idea will be to keep those people involved and entice them to volunteer next year.

18. NEWSLETTER CONTEST. Nancy said she noted in the Audubon Ohio e-newsletter that there will be a contest for Audubon chapters in Ohio to compete for the best newsletter. She would like to enter our newsletter into the contest.

19. GLENVILLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL. Nancy said she heard that Audubon Ohio is going to participate in the Glenville Heritate Festival on July 15 at the Cleveland Gardens off of Martin Luther King drive. Tom said he knew about this and is going to participate to support Audubon Ohio and WCAS.

20. The board decided to meet again on Sunday, July 30, at 6:00 p.m. at the Romito residence.