

South East Volusia Audubon Society

March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Marsha Cox, Bill Cox, Jane Talbot, Liz Merideth, Robert Merideth, Ed Carlson, Richard Fasse, Don Chalfant, Gail Rogers, Susan Dayer

Bylaws: Bill said the new bylaws will be presented at the annual meeting for a vote from of the membership. There will be copies for folks to read at the meeting. Someone will move to accept the new bylaws and a vote will be taken. Liz will publish the proposed bylaws in the April newsletter noting that they are proposed and will be voted on at the meeting. Bill asked if anyone had any issues with the proposed bylaws, no response.

Action item: Liz will publish the draft bylaws in the April newsletter

Annual meeting: Marsha announced that the annual meeting will be on Tuesday April 16th from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. It will be an end of year celebration and will include a presentation from Don as well as the vote on new bylaws and board for next year. Marsha asked if folks would volunteer to be on the subcommittee to plan the meeting. Gail volunteered. Liz would also like to meet next week to discuss. Don asked if SEVAS had ever presented lifetime achievement awards or letters of recognition? Don Picard was presented with an award. Bill said we may want to do the same for Gail Domrowski and Lamont Ingalls. Also possibly recognize Captain Guy from MDC for working with us on the garden.

New governance: Marsha presented a draft org chart with a possible new structure with a three-member Executive Committee, and mentioned that we could use another member if anyone would like to volunteer. She asked if there were any issues with the new structure, as it will be voted on at the annual meeting (no response).

Nominating committee: Communications chair and conservation chair are open positions.

Plants 4 Birds: Susan reported that Dean asked for help with trimming, mulching, etc. at the MDC garden. Susan has a group going tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Susan will get mulch to fill in where needed. We have put up two bluebird houses, one out back and one in front. Dan, who volunteers at the MDC, helped. There is already a pair of birds using the house out back. The one in front is close to a shrike nest, so it may be moved.

Myrtle Park - Joyce, Laura, and Susan met with the city about getting a faucet in the garden. The faucet was promised, but nothing has happened yet. Laura will weed in the next few days. Coffee bushes are clean of black mold now. All three great blue heron nests are occupied and one has fuzzy chicks!

Babe James garden is put on hold in Bob's absence. Winston is out of town and will return soon. Permission from the city is needed for planned work. Winston is not ready to represent us to the city, but will do the work. Bill has the plan and will get it to Susan to work with the city.

Chisolm – Dean and Susan installed four bluebird houses, which are not yet occupied. Joyce and John Pierce were looking at switching the micro-forest and meadow. The 4th grade teacher was concerned about line of sight to see kids outside. Joyce would like to move the micro-forest to the MDC as a demonstration garden. We are running out of time to do anything this season. Bottom line is the micro-forest is not happening at Chisolm. There is also an issue with the water system at Chisolm.

Susan is meeting with the girl scouts, may look at weeding and checking the water systems at Chisolm.

On March 26th, we are doing a session or two at MDC in their spring break camp. Joyce will do walks in the garden, Richard will do the PuMa house and Susan will do the bluebird houses.

Suggestion to Susan to delegate phone calls, etc. This applies to all area leaders. It is important to spread the work out to prevent burnout and to provide continuity if someone leaves. Each leader may need an assistant, and should try to recruit support. Marsha thanked Susan for all of the hard work!

Action item: Bill will get the Babe James plans to Susan

Tabling: Gail reported two events since the last board meeting. At the Black Heritage Festival, didn't push sales but table was more informational. Five people signed up, but not specifically for the garden. Also, Springfest we signed up one new member and 22 "friends" to receive the newsletter. Three specifically signed up to work on the Babe James garden, we may start them at Myrtle Park. Gail sent the money to Bill and Marsha. These events didn't generate a lot of money and were more designed to get our name out there and make connections.

Native plant sale is April 6th. Volunteers are needed, especially since it conflicts with the south Florida trip many folks are not available. Susan and Bill volunteered to help.

Atlantic Center for the Arts event is not a sale, but an art project for 150 kids as well as e-bird and Merlin demonstrations. Joyce Cassidy and Margo volunteered to help, Marsha will send Gail their contact information.

Action item: Marsha will send Gail the contact info for Joyce Cassidy and Margo

Outreach: Bill and Marsha did a presentation for Cuda Unhooked. Ed has been involved with this group of homeless or close to homeless kids. Bill and Marsha did a meeting with the kids over lunch. The kids are an active group. Bill and Marsha presented SEVAS and talked about birding and interest in a nature walk. Ed will take the lead on setting up a walk. Richard, Bill, Marsha, Gail, Susan, and others said they would participate in a walk. It would be in the area of their house, Ed checked and there are some good mature trees, northern parulas, titmice, cardinals etc. Idea is to get the kids to enjoy nature, make observations, and relax. Jane suggested providing them with loaner binoculars for the walk. Marsha will check with the MDC to see if we can borrow theirs.

Bill and Marsha will also do a presentation for Kiwanis during a lunch at Hidden Lakes. Jaqui recommended that for any meetings like this we must be allowed to sign up new members or friends.

Action item: Marsha will check with the MDC to see if we can use their loaner binoculars.

Newsletter: Liz needs follow up articles, and is hoping for next year she can get little synopsis of Tuesday morning birding, Birds & Brews, or any activity that should be listed in recent events. She is looking for pictures of people, and descriptions of what happened. Liz is looking for contributions for next month's newsletter. Marsha will send the conservation champion. Liz will send something out on Monday once she reviews what she has. Richard will do an article on PuMa. Jane will do an article on her Arizona trip. Don will do something on the Bioblitz.

Action items:

- Richard will do an article on PuMa
- Jane will do an article on Arizona trip
- Don will do an article on the Bioblitz

Purple Martins (PuMa): Richard reports that Saturday gourd drops will start this week at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the drop, two gourds had nest material such as oak leaves, and two others showed possible nesting behavior. It is possible that there are four pairs. Richard is still experimenting with a camera.

Web connection at the gourds is spotty. There will be a nest change four weeks after the first egg is found. This will be a public event.

Field trips: Don reported that the Bioblitz was a success. Susan and Don both brought friends. Don still has 8 or 10 items to identify, but the current count of species is 120. The blitz started at 4:00 a.m. The group setup sheets with a black light hoping for moths. Michael (Don's friend) IDed insects and lichens. The group stopped before noon.

Total events this season to date is 30, with 388 attendees.

Shorebirds: Ed reported that Wilson's plovers and other birds are starting to find territories and mates. There were four piping plovers in breeding plumage at Smyrna Dunes Park. Canaveral National Seashore is increasing its nest monitoring program from one to two days per week between March and August.

Other business: Richard reported checking into MailChimp again. With the free version, only one person can pull data. For a small fee, that increases to three people.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23

Minutes submitted by Jane Talbot

Addendum: The microforest at Chisholm Elementary School is now back on as agreement has been met with the staff. It is hoped that the planting will be done this month.

Addendum 2: Membership report submitted by Dean Spears:

Since last month:

- 1 New Member
- 1 Renewal
- 2 "Friends of SEVAS"