

South East Volusia Audubon Society

March 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Marsha Cox, Bill Cox, Richard Fasse, Bob Creedon, Bob Chew, Rachel Smith, Dean Spears

Marsha expressed kudos to Liz for the new newsletter and brochure, great job!

Purple Martins (PuMa):

Richard reported that purple martins are in the area, but none have been seen at our gourds yet. John thought he heard one nearby, but no confirmation. Richard goes to the gourds to change the batteries for the bird song every 4 days. Bob Creedon said the MDC person who does kayak tours may also be able to help with changing batteries since he is in that area regularly.

Plants 4 Birds:

Electric and water to the garden at MDC will be installed soon. Chad authorized the MDC to share cost with us. This will also make the purple martin song easier to manage and the garden water feature will work.

Dean met with Joyce and John Pierce at the garden, John was checking the soil for new plants to see what soil amendments might be needed. Joyce brought up the schedule for water and electric. Pawpaw chapter has a garden in front at the MDC, they have electric so Dean may give them one of our bird baths which would have to be converted from solar. Pawpaw would have to get sign off from Chad to proceed. Kudos to Dean for all of his work in the garden, it looks great!

Programs:

The meeting at the MDC to show the garden and PuMa gourds went very well. Around 20 – 25 people attended. This was the first program in the MDC's continuing education program for adults. Lisa Mickey is in charge, and received good reports from the attendees.

A program was held at Babe James in February talking about owls, and another program is planned next Monday on red shouldered hawks. The Marine Science Center will bring their hawk, we will read a story about hawks and make dreamcatchers with the kids. The owl nest will also be installed.

Communications Committee:

Bob Creedon reported the committee met last week, and no big updates to report. Deadline for the newsletter is the 20th. Liz has committed to have the newsletter out by the first of the month. Liz is looking for articles, especially for filler items. These would be items that can be used whenever something is needed to fill space rather than time specific items. Dean suggested that Liz publish this request in the newsletter. The caterpillar from the garden at MDC will be included in the next newsletter! Bob Chew will do an article on camera setup.

Kudos to Bob Creedon for a great job structuring the comms team, and the "have questions" tab on the website. Good progress!

Action item: All submit articles to Liz for the newsletter

Other business:

Tabling event at the Utilities Commission on Saturday for the Spring Fest was a great success! Good time to get brochures out, spread the word about our mission, and do networking. At the event, a wish list was started. Jane figured out how to setup an Amazon wish list for SEVAS and setup a draft which is not yet public. We should brainstorm on what items are needed, add to the list, then publish. First suggestions are weights to hold down the poles on the tent, something to clip pictures to the legs of the tent, and a table cloth (perhaps with our logo) for tabling.

Action item: All provide wish list items to Jane at brantrockbirder@yahoo.com. Jane will setup the list in Amazon.

Marsha wants to do more tabling events next year. This is the information and advocacy part of our mission.

The next board meeting is April, usually this is at the MDC and is a pot luck for the end of year. Given our current schedule, it would be on April 13th. Marsha asked if we should keep it as a pot luck, or consider renting out the MDC boat? Bob Creedon said he thought the boat rental would be around \$550, but he will find out for sure. Capacity of the boat is 40 people.

Action item: Bob Creedon will find out how much it costs to rent the MDC boat

Dean talked to Bill in February about ideas for the membership committee. Dean is the only member of the committee, and asked the nominating committee to do an open call for someone to join the membership committee.

Action item: Nominating committee will try to find someone to join Dean on the membership committee

Bill and Marsh are willing to be co-presidents for one more year, then they are stepping down. Marsha pointed out that some chapters run by steering committee rather than presidents, and this would be a possibility for our group.

Bob Chew asked about the status of dogs on the beach. Bill wrote to Jennifer Winters, who replied and forwarded to someone else, resulting in roping off areas at Smyrna Dunes park. Things have greatly improved, there are no dog prints on the dunes. Joyce and Marsha took a sunset cruise and saw poles up to mark off nests and protect dune areas. They also saw dogs off leash and evidence of feeding squirrels.

Bill contacted David Hargrove regarding the dogs on the beach legislation, suggesting using the endangered species act to disallow dogs on the beach. David thought the lawyers could get around the law, there is not enough proof of endangered birds there and there is a large amount of private money promoting the trial of dogs on the beach in Ormond.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jane Talbot