

South East Volusia Audubon Society

February 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Bill Cox, Marsha Cox, Jane Talbot, Dean Spears, Bob Creedon, Richard Fasse, Joyce Riddel, Jenifer Russell, Rachel Smith

Agenda:

- Dogs on the beach
- Green amendment
- Nominating committee
- Newsletter editor
- Plants for Birds
- Field trips (golf cart birding)
- Thursday's regular meeting
- Membership and dues
- Upcoming SEVAS presentations
- Other business

Newsletter editor:

Liz Merideth has agreed to be the new newsletter editor! Marsha asked if this position should be a board member. Joyce nominated, Richard seconded and all agreed. Richard is now an at large board member since resigning as head of the communications committee. Marsha will invite Liz to join the board. Liz also sent a draft version of the new brochure for comments. Bill will send the draft to board members. Liz suggested that an insert to join SEVAS is added to the brochure instead of having the membership form as part of the brochure. That way folks could join and still be able to keep their brochures.

Action item:

- Marsha will invite Liz to become a board member
- Bob will reach out to Liz to transition the newsletter

Plants for Birds:

Joyce is trying to put together an event for February 20th at Babe James. Richard, Marsha and friends of Joyce will be participating. The author of a book (true story) about an owl falling out of its nest and being rescued will bring the story and pictures. Richard will bring the owls nest frame and a bag of sticks for kids to build the nest, explaining that owls don't build their own nests. If the group is small enough, Richard will have the kids sign the nest frame. Richard also has a blue tooth speaker to play sounds of a great horned owl. Joyce is waiting to hear from Tracy of the Marine Science Center to see if they can bring an owl for the event.

Power and water to the MDC garden have been approved. Capt. Guy is working on getting bids. We have plants on order to be installed, but want the water in place before planting. Target is to have Katie Tripp come to help with planting the second week of March. Capt. Guy will work towards that date. There is still no reply on putting an equipment box by the garden, we are waiting for approval. Box would be a 31-gallon cube and would store some PuMa equipment, hose, nozzle, etc. We would need cement poured, then the box would be bolted to the cement and locked.

Joyce talked to David Ray from the city asking for dog bags to be installed at Myrtle Park. Also thanks to Steve for fixing the hose at Myrtle.

Nominating Committee:

Bill and Marsha are looking for volunteers to participate in the nominating committee. Job is to contact current board members to see who is willing to continue to serve, and recommend new board members. We have lost Liz and had a VP slot open, so we can add two new board members. They want this started by March since April is the annual meeting with elections. Leadership of the committee should be a board member, but non-board members can participate. Marsha and Bill will continue to recruit.

Tracy was mentioned as a possible board member with IT expertise. All agree she would be a great addition

Action item:

- Jenifer will ask Tracy if she is interested in joining the board.

Dogs on the Beach:

There is a new initiative to allow dogs on all beaches in Volusia County. The County Council will meet on February 21st and this item will be on the agenda. We were tipped off by Jennifer Winters. SEVAS should have a presence at the meeting, as many people as possible. Anyone who wants to speak gets three minutes. The meeting will be in Deland. Audubon is very strongly against dogs on the beach. We must get across how detrimental dogs are to the dunes and the birds. Marsha will get more information out to everyone. Dean asked who to contact, and can folks write or call?

Since dogs can go to the river and the dog area at Smyrna Dunes that should be sufficient. Also, service dogs are allowed on the beaches.

Action item:

- Marsha will send out more information about the county council meeting

Green Amendment:

The Green Amendment would protect water in Florida. Florida Audubon is now backing the amendment, and would like folks to help get the required 223,000 signatures by the end of November. It would then go to the supreme court to review, then it would go on the ballot. The Amendment to the State Constitution would provide better clean water rights in Florida. Similar amendments have passed in Massachusetts and other states. Marsha and Bill will bring petitions to their tabling event at the end of February. Robert Merideth and friends of the Chews will be there to give out information. Rachel asked if she can distribute the petitions at her school.

Action items:

- Marsha will give Jane a paper copy of the petition to scan and email to Rachel

Programs:

Thursday is Don's MDC lecture with a Valentine's day theme about birds.

Bob Creedon has setup golf cart birding for March 6th at 5pm. Meet at Hidden Lakes Golf Club. SEVAS can have 15 carts, and the group must stay together and out of the way of golfers. Bob will lead the driving, but will need a knowledgeable birding leader. The area has lots of water, ponds, one spring fed, and opens onto Turnbull Bay. They have had Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Stork, and other birds. Cost will be \$10 per cart with 2 people per cart. Folks must sign up since attendance is limited. Board will have first option. Let Bill and Marsha know if you are attending. The club house will be open for beverage and food after the event. Birding will be from 5 to 6:30.

Action item:

- Tell Bill & Marsha if you want to attend the golf cart birding event

February 23rd SEVAS was invited by Halifax Audubon to participate in a trip to TM Goodwin Marsh. This is a great place for birding, lots of ducks and other birds. This is the same day as the next Birds & Brews.

Other Business:

SEVAS was invited by the Atlantic Center for Arts to be part of a project this spring with the Office on Aging. The project is an art project about birds called "Put a Bird on it". They wrote us into the grant. Two birds were chosen, Florida Scrub Jay and Barred Owl. Ken and Margo volunteered to go to the event and talk about these two birds, and clients will make a kinetic art mobile which will be installed on Douglas Street.

Cindy McAlister asked SEVAS to do a birding trip to Battle Island. Ken and Margo volunteered to lead. Thanks to Ken and Margo!

Jenifer had a great trip to Columbia! Question would it be possible to have her guide speak at one of our meetings?

Minutes:

Meeting minutes submitted by Jane Talbot

Meeting adjourned 4:50 p.m.