

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting Monday, February 18, 2013
Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Barry Wolfe

Moderator for this meeting: Nancy Howell

Welcome to Nora Ebie, who volunteered to help out at the last membership meeting.

1. Reports from Strategic Champions

a) Barry Wolfe - Membership: Grow and strengthen, identify leaders
The board edited a letter composed by Barry to be sent to WCAS members in attendance at the last program, to recruit members for a membership committee. Will send out on letterhead.

b) Kurt Miske - Identify leadership on the board and in the membership

Nora Ebie volunteered to work with Kurt. Goals were to confirm or change operating procedures by 3/1 and to develop board roles and create succession plans by 5/1. The board discussed current chapter bylaws. Kit proposed that we have a more formal path for participation. Barry suggest we prepare nominations, in order to present a ballot to members at the May meeting. Nancy and Tom shared some chapter history. The chapter adopted current board and officer procedures to accomplish the five-year forest-breeding bird survey.

Board agreed to function as a nominating committee, and to ask current officers and board members whether they would like to be on the ballot to continue. Tom offered to stay on for another year as president if needed, or to work closely to mentor a new president of the chapter. Liz will write a letter inviting nominations. Members will receive an e-blast and a printed letter. Members may nominate another person or may self-nominate. Nominating committee will verify the interest of nominees and request a brief bio from each. We will nominate officers and board members.

c) Stan Searles - Education. Stan's goal is to identify 2 new programs for community outreach. He is thinking of slideshows or a speakers bureau. Nora mentioned that Tri-C sponsors summer camps. Stan will collect ideas for outreach and education.

2. Finances

Nancy reported \$27,239.86 in the treasury. Next large expense will be insurance.

3. Carbon Offset fund and Cleveland Metroparks

Tom reported on his meeting with Donna Studniarz and Karen Kannenberg at Cleveland Metroparks. WCAS has interest in habitat preservation in the Rocky River Important Bird Area, along the East Branch of the Rocky River. Cleveland Metroparks is focusing on the lakefront and not currently focused on the Hinckley and Millstream areas. They would like money for upgrading the lakefront parks, assuming Metroparks takes these over from the state of Ohio. The board felt that WCAS should delay a donation, to see about final decisions the lakefront, and to pursue other opportunities along the East Branch Rocky River, possibly with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, or with municipalities along the river. Tom will communicate to Cleveland Metroparks.

4. Donation to RRNC for use of space and being good to WCAS: Discussed Trailside fund, and suggested something near the birdfeeder area. Will ask what they need.

5. Volunteer opportunities: Will e-blast to members for volunteers for all.

a) Earthfest 2013 at Berea Fairgrounds. Date is Sunday, April 21, 2013, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Nancy will contact the Earth Day Coalition for details. Kit, Nancy and Stan will attend.

b) Cleveland International Film Festival: WCAS will sponsor a film as a community partner, but we do not yet know the date for this film. WCAS will have a table and time to speak briefly before the film.

c) Buzzard Sunday, Hinckley OH. Date is Sunday, March 17, 2013, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Nancy will contact Martha Catherwood about having a table. Kit and Nancy will attend. Nancy will bring buzzard head bands and the bird buzzer board. Kit will bring stamps.

6. Audrey Kodger, RRNC Building Host

Audrey will be leaving RRNC. Penny will bring flowers to the next membership meeting.

7. How to make use of the names collected at the February program

Barry will invite the WCAS members to be part of a membership committee. Tom compose a letter inviting nonmembers to join WCAS, and will e-blast from Vertical Response.

8. Place for picnic, Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Lagoon Picnic area, on Valley Parkway just south of Cedar Point Road

9. Ultrawalk/Ultrabird dates

Board is deciding between the weekend of 5/18/13 and 5/25/13. Will check calendars and exchange e-mails.

10. Coffee - reorder yes or no?

Kit will order more for fall. Have only 6 bags left, but most demand is in fall and winter.

11. Film Festival Update: CIFF is offering sponsorship of "Survival Prayer" about the Haida people and their sustainable use of fishery resources. WCAS is a non-paying "Community Partner." A paying sponsor has selected the film that WCAS originally requested.

12. Miscellaneous item: WCAS will meet in the RRNC classrooms on March 5, rather than in the auditorium.

13. Next meeting: Monday, March 18, 2013 at Sandwich Delites, Berea, OH.