

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board

Williamsburg Bird Club

May 14, 2018

Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 5537 Centerville Rd. Williamsburg, VA

Board Member Attendees: Cheryl Jacobson, Judy Jones, Melinda Cousins, Ann Carpenter, Cathy Millar, Gary Carpenter, Shirley Devan

Board Members Absent: Bill Williams

Chair Attendees: Jeanette Navia, Geoff Giles, Nancy Barnhart

Chair Attendees Absent: Jim Corliss, Lee Schuster, Barbara Neiss, Tom McCary, Bill Williams

Guest Attendee: Roxanne Bruno

The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Jacobson at 1:30 pm. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report- Ann Carpenter: Copies of the spreadsheet of our WBC's current finances were distributed.

Ann reported that she'd completed and submitted a report to the Virginia Office of Charitable Solicitations because we are an organization that solicits contributions.

Ann gave us an update on the progress regarding an anonymous \$25,000 endowment being set up to honor the anniversary of two club members by their family that would fund an annual Nature Camp Scholarship. Ann had recommended that The Williamsburg Community Foundation provide the stewardship for this endowment. The family got in touch with the executive director of the WCF, Nancy Sullivan, and they agreed to the terms of establishing the endowment with a starting fund of \$10,000 and adding \$5,000 to it annually until the target of \$25,000 is reached. The fund will be officially started this June 1st and the couple will be informed later in June. The scholarship will be paid for by the interest on the principal and should be fully funded by 2021. Ann will check with the family regarding thoughts of offering a partial scholarship in 2019 and 2020. Ann will also check to see if they would like the club to make some form of recognition at our September meeting. Appropriately the recipients of this year's Nature Camp Scholarship will be making brief presentations at this meeting. Judy asked if the family would be agreeable to having an article about the endowment in the local newspaper and shared to other avenues of publicity.

Ann gave a brief review of the club's budget. The club has a current balance of \$16,201.39. This is about \$1,000 less than last year. Our current income is \$8,245 compared to \$10,817 last year. Jeanette reported that there are about 20 members who haven't paid yet. Ann added that donations to Nature Camp Scholarship are down significantly and the Wild Birds Unlimited donation has been smaller. The budget also reflects last year's anniversary expenditures. Jeanette will email a reminder to members who have yet to pay dues.

Ann reported on the budget for seeds for Child Development Resources as this is the first full year in a number of years that the club has supported the project. Expenses in 2013 were \$578; 2014 - \$427; 2015 - \$190 (partial year); 2016- \$0; and in 2017 - \$249 (partial year). \$235 has been spent so far in 2018. The question was whether a cap on spending was desired. Judy proposed that we see what

expenses are incurred this year and reconsider the subject next year. Gary said he has been buying the seed from Wild Birds Unlimited and whether we should consider buying less expensive seed. Interest was expressed in continuing to buy quality seed. Cheryl enquired if we should buy seeds from both bird supply stores. WBU gives back to the club 5% of what members spend. Backyard Birder Seed & Supply gives members a 10% discount. Melinda reported that she gives 25% off retail price to nonprofit educational community groups to support them. A motion was made and seconded that we buy half of the seeds for CDR from WBU and the other half from Backyard Birder. The motion was passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report – Cathy Millar: The minutes had been emailed to the board members after the last meeting and again prior to this meeting for review. Treasurer, Ann Carpenter, made some corrections and additions to the treasurer's report. There was no further discussion and the amended minutes were approved unanimously by the Board.

Field Trips – Chairperson Geoff Giles: Geoff reported on the following:

- **May 19:** Newport News Park led by Hugh Beard. We will carpool at 7:30 at Old Colony Square. It will be announced at the upcoming membership meeting and via email. Melinda proposed putting it into the WYDaily.
- There are no plans for summer field trips but Geoff is open to suggestions. He's heard some interest in going to Sylvan Heights Bird Park in NC.

Programs - Chairperson Judy Jones: Judy reported on the following:

- **May 16:** Susan Powell presents the 'Joy of Birding' which will include a refresher course on identifying birds and bird calls, birding ethics and what behavior to look for in breeding birds.
- **September 19:** Dave Youker will present 'Birding in Guatemala'. Nature Camp Scholarship recipients will also give brief presentations.
- **October 17:** John Swaddle from W&M has yet to establish a topic.
- **November (?date):** Fletcher Smith will give a presentation on his research in the Arctic. Judy noted that the third Wednesday in November is the 21st which is the day before Thanksgiving. November 14th is the date of Master Naturalist meeting. She asked the Board to decide on a date so Dan can reserve the room. The 28th of November was thought to be too close to the Christmas rush. Judy will check with the Master Naturalist program chairperson to see if they already have something scheduled and whether they are open to having a joint meeting on November 14th.
- **January 15, 2019:** Bob Schamerhorn has offered a choice of 2 topics: (a) Alaskan birds and mammals and dramatic landscape or (b) the birds of the Atlantic Coastline from Maine to Florida. A general consensus was reached to choose the coastal birds program as that is a group of birds that reinforcement in identification is always appreciated.

The Flyer – Vice-President Melinda Cousins: Melinda reported that she's gotten a lot of great input from the membership. She requested that if folks can't make the deadline for input about programs,

field trips, etc., to please let her know so she can make a spot for it. Her deadline is the last Saturday of every month and then she takes the following week to compile everything. Melinda already posts in the newsletter calendar a reminder of the deadline for photos. Cheryl suggested an additional reminder via email be sent out 7- 10 days before the deadline. Melinda reported that Fred Blystone has retired from the position of printing The Flyer. Shirley Devan is filling in and printed 50 of the last edition. Organizing The Flyer for mailing took her 4 or 5 hours including travel time for delivering and pickup at Staples. It cost \$45 for printing 50 issues of 10 pages each. Melinda asked if we should consider a printing company to do the work. Melinda volunteered to get quotes from Printwell, UPS and Minuteman Printing for the next board meeting.

The next Flyer will be issued in September.

New and Old Business:

- **2020 Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting:** Guest, Rexanne Bruno, who volunteered to be the general chairperson for organizing the Williamsburg Bird Club hosting the 2020 annual meeting, passed around a partial copy of the guidelines for planning and conducting annual meetings. The complete guidelines can be found on the VSO website, www.virginiabirds.org. She reviewed what things needed to be done one to two years before the meeting. Committee chairpersons need to be established. The committees are Program, Arrangements, Finance, Registration, Field Trips, Hospitality, Publicity, and Exhibits. She asked for volunteers from the Board. Shirley Devan offered to be Chairperson of Registration; Ann Carpenter volunteered to be Chairperson of Finance; Cheryl Jacobson volunteered to be Chairperson of Program and Nancy Barnhart volunteered to be Chairperson of Field Trips. Rexanne urged us to tap club members for help who have talent and skills that would lend themselves to assisting. We need to find the keynote speaker and establish the dates fairly soon. In 2020, Mother's Day is on May 10th and W&M graduation is on May 16th. She recommended either the first weekend (May 1-3) or the second weekend (May 8-10). The first weekend might be best for the potential presence of the most migratory birds. We have yet to find out if there is a Kingsmill PGA scheduled that May. A hotel needs to be picked and Rexanne suggested that we choose 3 hotels and get bids for each weekend to see if there is any difference in rate. Hotel rate should be reasonable to encourage attendance. We need a hotel that has banquet facilities to seat at least 100-150 people, an exhibit room, meeting room, enough hotel rooms and restaurant facilities in or near the hotel. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel has recently changed hands and is doing extensive remodeling. Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center was also suggested. It was noted that our Board of Tourism can be asked to supply bags with freebees to be added to the registration packets. She also said that a plus for this area is that there are a lot of activities available for non-birding spouses and children. Shirley commented that annual meetings held on Mother's Day in the past were promoted as a get-away for mothers and families. Rexanne suggested that there be a date set in a few weeks for chairpersons to meet to address these issues. Her contact information is rexannebruno@gmail.com. Her cell phone # is 434 944 2730.
- **Watchable Wildlife Biologist for the Virginia Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries Birding and Wildlife Trail Brochure:** The club received an email from Jessica Ruthenberg asking if we wanted to help cover the cost of a new brochure (one of a series) featuring the Williamsburg area and if

we wanted to give them any input. If we give a donation, we will have our logo included. The brochure is already developed so appears to be mostly a request for money. Hampton Roads Bird Club gave them \$500. Judy noted that she favors sharing info digitally to decrease carbon footprint. Brochures often end up wasted. A motion was made and seconded that we not support this project and was approved unanimously. (Upon further input from Jessica and consideration, the board later supported and passed via e-mail contact a \$200 donation. The WBC logo was added to the brochure.)

- **Boy Scout Troop Schedule Change:** Cheryl reported that the Boy Scout Troop that had planned on attending our May meeting will not be able to and might reschedule for the autumn.
- **SCOOT Magazine:** Cheryl got a call saying they were doing an autumn issue on pets and that they would like information about our bird club! Info about our club will probably be included in a sidebar. It is a free magazine distributed to businesses.
- **Present for Dan Cristol:** Cheryl showed us a lovely limited edition print of a watercolor painting of Virginia birds arranged in the shape of the state by Luke Seitz. He is creating one for each state and printed copies of each are limited to 100.
- **Next Meeting:** September 17th at 1:30 pm.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Millar, Secretary,
Williamsburg Bird Club
May 16, 2018