

Texas Ornithological Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Abilene 05/05/2023

President Byron Stone called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Present at today's meeting were Christine Turnbull, John Berner, Randy Pinkston, Byron Stone, Judy Kestner, and Susan Foster. Joining the meeting by telephone were Lorrie Mathers, Frances Cerbins, and Romey Swanson. Not in attendance were Kendra Kocab, Laura Wilson, and Clay Taylor. Also present were Lynn Thompson and Pamela Pipes.

Approval of minutes from the last board meeting was deferred to a later date.

Treasurer's Report:

John Berner handed out reports completed by Lorrie Mathers. Lorrie explained his Summary of Financial Activities for January through April 2023 for TOS. Byron Stone said that some differences in income and expenses are dependent on the time of year when a financial statement is prepared.

Gailon Brehm had chaired the Investment Committee. With the absence of Gailon, we need to reconstitute that committee. John Berner said we need to add someone in addition to the treasurer. John asked if the committee members needed to be on the board. John would like to be on the committee. Byron Stone would like to add another board member to join the committee to be named at a later date. Duties of the committee include revisiting our investment strategy, said Lorrie Mathers. Byron Stone volunteered to be on the committee with Lorrie and John Berner. There should be about one or two meetings a year. Lorrie Mathers will chair the committee.

Sabine Woods Report

John Berner explained the recently completed lease of 14 additional acres for five years located off the gate on the West end of our property. We will put up a chain gate and plant 20 oak trees within the next two years. John reported that we have multiple ways to get those trees for free. John said it also would be good to fill in the open area with more trees. John applied to Exxon LNG to get free gravel. All in favor. Lease allows us to build a parking lot up to two acres. County will do the labor to spread the gravel. Golden Triangle Audubon cleared some and will put in dirt to get across the donut shaped lake. Thinking about putting a third drip in. Seeding could be a good fundraiser for our members. City paid \$15,000 for porta potties this year. The QR code signs are very successful at generating income.

Hooks Woods

John Berner said several things need maintenance. He sent pictures to Shelia Hargis of what needs to be done.

Magic Ridge

Byron Stone reported that the unhomed people living on the property are no longer there. We still need to have a clean-up day, and the house still needs to be moved. Our lawyer is asking the purchaser of the house to move it or we will take legal steps. We are not paying for electricity there. John Berner said we need to turn water back on if we ever want to use it.

Christine Turnbull suggested Byron Stone write an article about Magic Ridge for our newsletter to educate TOS members about its importance. Maybe he could update an article written by Brent Ortego a few years ago.

Panama Trip update

Susan Foster reported that we have thirteen people going. Frances Cerbins is still collecting required documents from a few participants. Judy Kestner reported that all have paid. Final payment will be made to Canopy at the beginning of June.

Other potential international trips

Frances Cerbins has been in communication with J B Journeys to put together trips for us. Frances will find out what Travis Audubon's agreement is with J B Journeys and will ask them to put together proposals for trips

to Belize, Guatemala and one other country for us to look over and discuss further. We will see how that works. All in favor.

Future TOS Meetings

Susan Foster will get more information regarding holding next year's meetings in Weslaco. John Berner will also talk to Darraugh Castillo of Beaumont/Port Arthur CVB. Romey will check with Agrilife people.

Hiring Judy Kestner

Byron Stone met with an attorney regarding the best way to hire Judy. Lorrie Mathers agrees with the lawyer that Judy Kestner be hired as an employee. He suggests a lawyer tell us what needs to be done. John Berner and Lorrie Mathers think hiring Judy as an employee is more involved than as an independent contractor. Byron Stone will have a consultation with Capital for advice.

Other business

Lynn Thompson showed and suggested a permanent lanyard to hold name tags for future meetings to be reused at each meeting instead of using plastic. We can offer the lanyards to TOS members for purchase. All in favor of ordering 100 lanyards.

John Berner moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Randy Pinkston. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned.

Meeting of the new Board called to order. Present at this meeting were Byron Stone, Pamela Pipes, Lynn Thompson, Christine Turnbull, Randy Pinkston, Susan Foster. Lorrie Mathers and Romey Swanson attended via telephone. Not present were Kendra Kocab, Laura Wilson, and Clay Taylor.

Election of officers:

Susan Foster nominated Lorrie Mathers as treasurer. Seconded by Christine Turnbull. All in favor.

Randy Pinkston nominated Susan Foster to continue as secretary. Seconded by Christine Turnbull. All in favor.

Randy Pinkston nominated Byron Stone to continue as president. Seconded by Christine Turnbull. All in favor.

Susan Foster nominated Romey Swanson as vice president. Seconded by Lynn Thompson. All in favor.

The next board meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of months. Byron Stone will send an email.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.