



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

July 28, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom.

Present: Bonnie Anderson, Dawn Carovano, Alan Christensen, Cheryl Hart, Tom Hartz, Phyllis Millan, Michelle Miller, Sharon Miller, Louie Olivarez, Willem Stoeller, Irene Vlach.

Excused: Keith Mays, Michelle Scholz.

Staff: Larry Klimek, Eva Kristofik, Sarah Williams.

Guest: Rachel Dunham

We have a quorum (7 directors required).

I. Call to Order (6:35pm)

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda:

1. Irene
2. Tom

Passed.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

B. Financial Reports
Reports were submitted electronically.

C. Visitor Services Report
Report was submitted electronically.

D. Photo Society Report

No report because the Society is not active in the summer. Meetings are set up for every month in the fall.

E. Restoration Report

Report was submitted electronically.

F. Membership Committee Report

No report.

G. Any additions / supplements to reports

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the reports:

1. Willem
2. Louie

Passed.

III. Business

Information

1. Refuge update and status of Park Ranger hiring: Larry

Eva reported that the application period for the Park Ranger closed last Monday. She is expecting a list of potential applicants next week or the following week. It will be mid-September or more likely October, before someone will be starting work as the new Park Ranger. USFWS has started to welcome back a small number of volunteers for specific tasks.

The parking lot at Wapato will be completed by end of August. Restrooms still need to be set up. Curt is working on the hunting program. The hunt plan is not yet finalized. Public notices will be issued.

Natalie is weeding at 1P and 2P, with a couple of volunteers. All the plantings are doing well, at Wapato, along Chicken, as well as on 1P and 2P.

A soft opening of Wapato is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 1. Hunting should start mid-December. The grand opening is scheduled for April 10, which is at the tail end of the congressional recess, hopefully allowing Rep. Bonamici to attend. We also hope to have one of our Senators at the event. Cheryl reminded Larry that FOR would be happy to send an invitation to the director of USFWS. Since the proposed date coincides with the traditional date for the Native Plant sale, we might combine the two events, possibly have the plant sale at Wapato.

The Youth hunt will take place at Tualatin River NWR and in the future there will probably also be one at Wapato.

We will consider reopening the Visitor Center when the 3 Metro counties get into the next reopening phase.

2. Budget forecast for FY21: Willem

We are facing a \$24,000 reduction in income for unrestricted expenditures. This is due to a forecast for substantially diminished individual donations, fewer memberships and the absence of store income.

The FY21 budget is to be approved at the next board meeting.

3. Further discussion of vision/mission/committees: Alan

The board members who developed the initial draft are planning to continue their work, drafting goals as a next step. Board members are encouraged to think about goals before the next call to offer them up during the discussion. Any additional board members who want to help should contact Bonnie.

It was suggested to send a survey to FOR members to find out about their vision for the Refuge.

In 2013 the Refuge developed a document with input from the Friends and the community. It includes goals and objectives. We could use it as a starting point for our process, as it covers many points that the Board discussed.

4. Funding needs and opportunities for coming year: Bonnie/All

We brainstormed about fundraising opportunities while the store must remain closed.

5. Ideas for next steps for DEI training: Alan/Bonnie/All

- Invite people from communities of color to speak to us.
- Bonnie will ask Jenna to draft a proposal for facilitated discussions based on materials focusing on DEI and Justice.
- Sarah offered to write a document with a list of resources.
- Bonnie will send the link to a video on Latinx engagement.

The above discussions will have to take place outside the regular board meetings and should be facilitated.

6. Board recruitment discussion: Alan

We will send a letter to all volunteers with information on activities of the Friends, and more specifically of the Board, inviting and encouraging them to attend board meetings. Current board members are asked to help with recruiting future board members.

7. Necessary prep for annual meeting: Bonnie

The annual meeting will take place by Zoom on September 26, which is also National Urban Refuge Day.

Alan, Sharon and Tom's terms end on September 30 and they need to be reelected if they wish to stay on the board. Louie and Phyllis need to be ratified as board members.

If changes we made to the by-laws in the course of the year, or if additional changes need to be made, the group in charge needs to meet ASAP. The version of the by-laws to be approved at the Annual meeting needs to be posted on our website 30 days before the meeting. The most current copy of the by-laws is posted on our website.

Draft agenda:

- Presentation (on Chicken Creek and Wapato Lake, by Larry?)
- Election and ratification of board members
- Volunteers of the year

Bonnie will ask Virginia whether she is willing to produce the Annual Report for us.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjourn (8:30)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Cheryl
2. Louie

Passed