



FRIENDS OF TUALATIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

June 23, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom.

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

Excused: Tom Hartz, Keith Mays.

Staff: Natalie Balkam Larry Klimek, Eva Kristofik.

We have a quorum (7 directors required).

I. Call to Order (6:35pm)

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with the following amendments:

- the spelling of Natalie's last name
- the date of the agenda
- Cheryl requested time to give an update on CORFA (Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates).

1. Louie
2. Willem and Phyllis

Passed.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

B. Financial Reports
Reports were submitted electronically.

C. Visitor Services Report
Report was submitted electronically.

D. Photo Society Report
Report was submitted electronically.

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. Dawn and Cheryl
- Passed.

III. Business

A. Information

1. Friends Staff update: Natalie Balkam

FOR received a grant for \$8,000 from Friends of Ridgefield for outreach to black and brown children through ELSO (Experience Life Science Outdoors).

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2. Refuge Update: Larry / Eva

USFWS is authorized to start reopening the Refuge in phases. Some staff and some volunteers will be allowed on the Refuge. Half the parking lot will be available to the public. The Visitor Center, the Admin building and the restrooms will continue to be closed to the public. However, porta potties will be set up. Trail rovers will be allowed in limited numbers. USFWS will provide PPE both for staff and volunteers. Staff is given the option of continuing to telework.

Chicken creek restoration will not be completed this year. The bridges will be installed only in 2021.

The Wapato Lake opening and celebration has been rescheduled to April 10, 2021. The Refuge will probably be open for public use on Nov. 1.

The Park Rangers job announcements should be posted later this week or next week.

3. 2020-2021 Budget: Willem

Willem provided a timeline for the budget to be approved before the Annual Meeting.

4. Letter of Support for VS to Kevin Foerster

Sept. 30 marks the end of our 5 year work agreement with USFWS, including funding for staff for the VC. The HR committee expressed concerns with respect to the continuity from FOR staff to Refuge staff. Bonnie will draft a letter to Kevin Foerster (Assistant Regional Director), advocating for \$50,000 to extend our staff time by a few months.

B. Discussion/Vote:

1. Follow up on Grants – Intel, TREE, Sherwood, WCVA: Bonnie

Intel: the grant application was submitted. Intel has already approved the delay for the completion of Chicken creek.

TREE: we have to request an extension because of the delay in the completion of the Chicken creek restoration project.

City of Sherwood: the funds will become available in July.

WCVA: the grant was approved, including the amendment for a gravel trail.

O'Brien Prize: the application was submitted on June 15.

2. DEI and Vision Statement: Alan

Some amendments were suggested to the draft statement prepared by a number of board members.

The statement will be posted on our website, on social media and well as in the newsletter.

Michelle M. made a motion to accept the statement as read, with the discussed and agreed upon amendments.

Second: Willem

Passed.

Friends' HR update: Bonnie

Jenna now works full time for the Friends; Natalie was granted a 12 weeks leave of absence to work for USFWS during that time.

3. Follow up on Background Checks and Out of State Donations: Willem

At this point, except for some key positions (officers or the board, volunteers working with children) there is no need to do background checks. The Governance committee is charged to make a policy recommendation with respect to background checks.

The board agreed that there currently is no need to make any changes with respect to out of state donations.

4. Letter of Support for Tualatin River Boat Launch Grant

FOR is going to send a letter to Martin McKnight, Acting Parks Manager, City of Tigard, in support of a proposed boat launch next to the Dennis Unit.

5. Update on Wapato Lake NWR and Chicken Creek Public Celebration: Larry

See above.

6. Location of July Meeting

If the Covid situation allows, the July board meeting will be held outdoors at the Dennis unit.

7. Cheryl: cooperative agreement

The National Wildlife Refuge Associate and the Coalition of Refuge Friends and Advocates (CORFA) have entered an MOU. Both organizations provide information and support to Friends groups and they now have a formal agreement to work together to provide those resources.

8. Open session for new topics or further discussion

Phyllis requested that at the next board meeting we vote on the decision to change our name to include Wapato Lake, after discussion of required actions and their financial impact.

IV. Announcements

V. Adjourn (8:15pm)

Motion to adjourn:

1. Cheryl
2. Phillis

Passed