

GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON BOARD MEETING MINUTES Final

Friday March 17th, 2023 Hot Tomato

Monday **MARCH 20th, 2023**

Presbyterian Church Community Room 3940 27 ½ Road

Facilitator: Pam

PRESENT: Cary, Larry, Logan, Pam, Tina, JAG

REGRETS: Nic, Meredith, Chuck

GUESTS: Cara Kukuraitis/Neon One, Ana Hinojosa/Conservation Colorado stopped by.

Welcome and Appreciations

Thank-you Tina for all your work with Hot Tomato Fund Raiser! Thank-you Logan for volunteering to be the Tumacnacbac Trip Coordinator.

Guest Speaker: Cara Kukuraitis/NeonOne Platform

Cara has experience with Colorado Gives and Giving Tuesday.

NeonOne can handle a new fee structure for handling the Tumacnacbac trips.

Cara can automatically generate a Thank-you post card when donations are received.

Cara highly suggested we go with the higher level of NeonOne.

BOARD VOTES

Preserve Signs APPROVED

Platinum Signs received 6 affirmative votes for Logan to move forward with producing the signs. Now that funds have been approved, **Logan** is getting design proofs which will need board approval.

Chronolog APPROVED

Board received 7 votes to move forward with implementing a time lapse Chronolog site at the preserve. The placement of the Chronolog will be on Osprey Pond. No proofs are needed as Chronolog has a template that **Logan** will use.

Audubon Name Change/GVAS NOT APPROVED

Members thoughtfully weighed in by email on the discussion of whether or not we should change our local chapter name and the consensus was no name change would be pursued at this time.

NeonOne Upgrade APPROVED

Logan moved that we consolidate and upgrade to next level of NeonOne and all present voted yes. Cara will work with **Tina** to transition from Mailchimp.

NeonOne/Tumacnacbac Fee Structure Set

Board voted to set the Tumacnacbac Fee Structure to \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. All present voted yes.

NeonOne/Thank-you Post Cards \$100 APPROVED Board approved an automatically generated thank-you post card from NeonOne when donations of \$100 or more are received. **Pam** or **Tina** or **Cary** will write a hand written note on the post card.

Fund Raiser Ticket Costs APPROVED

Evening Program: Maximum of 80 people at \$25 pp Total: \$2000

Bird Walk: Maximum of 20 people at \$15 pp Total: \$ 300

Board approved Kersten to do her walk on the GJWA. However, Nic later report that the GJWA manager, Kyle Alstatt (970-589-0033) said his superiors did NOT approve of letting us use GJWA for Tiffany’s bird walk. It was suggested to hold the bird walk at the Preserve which we could then continue into Connected Lakes.

Audubon Memorial Bench Amy Golden

Logan

Logan responded to Amy that her chosen location is not on our property; however, we might consider putting a bench on our property if she provides details of what she has in mind.

IN PERSON REPORTS

Finance:

Larry

Nat’l Audubon sent a check for \$1504 for annual report money.

We received \$2920 from Community Foundation.

No local youth name was provided for the Bird Camp Scholarship.

Larry advised that GVAS has paid the last invoice received from Ducks Unlimited.

Meredith billed one of our partners for reimbursement of that expense. What we received was a very small reimbursement and **Larry** will check with Meredith to confirm the expected amount.

Fund Raiser Hot Tomato Thursday 3/30/23 5-7 pm

Pam

Pam will set up a table with GVAS promotional materials on Thursday, 3/30/23 from 5-7pm. **Tina and Logan** will advertise this event on the website, FB, and during March meeting introductions.

Wetlands Ongoing Maintenance (volunteer or paid position)

Cary

The **Board** will continue to look for volunteers before deciding to make this a paid position. **Cary** worked with Chuck and Larry and set up a list of duties that need to be done on a regular basis at the preserve. Cary was not able to contact Mike to find out how many hours per week he worked.

Possible Volunteers:

Patrick Rhodes – **Pam** contacted David Price to check with Patrick

Steve Williams – **Cary** will contact Steve now that she has Steve’s contact information: 970-314-9195 stwi9998 @gmail.com

Fund Raiser Tiffany Kersten

Pam, Cary, Tina, Angela

Caterer: TBD

Cost: \$

Participant \$ Level for Bird Walk:

20 max. X \$15

Participant \$ Level for Program:

80 x \$25

Presbyterian Room Rental Fee w/kitchen

\$110

Room Set Up: 10 tables seat 8 at each table

80+ People

Purchase full table: 8pp/table x \$25

\$200/Table

Registration

Cara to create an online form in order for participants to register and pay for the program, table and/or bird walk fee. **Pam** will talk to Cara about this.

Caterer and Food Options:

Have participants get hors d'oeuvres and then sit at table; soda, BYOB, Pelligrino or sparkling water. CMU is too expensive. **Tina** will ask her neighbor who does PT Catering. What hors d'oeuvres do we want? Angela is donating place to stay, half of the speaker's fee and recently reaffirmed to Pam that she (Angela) would work on food.

Advertising:

Pam checked with Kersten and she does not have her own mini clip but does have the Texas Monthly and Audubon articles. These were forwarded by Pam to Logan and Tina. Advertise bird walk as a limited participant event. Put up posters and newspaper article.

Similar Events:

Cary met with Bruce Ackerman of Black Cyn Audubon to see how they handle their fund raisers. They have 60 people at \$35 each. Total: \$2100

Qualified Creative Writer Opportunity

Tina

Tina will meet with the "nature writer" and have her help advertise for the Kersten Fund Raiser. Put all information together to get it out in different places as well as a special newsletter article.

Preserve Signage/Publicity

Logan

Logan will work with Chuck to get the existing "Berkeley Reece Sanctuary No Parking" signs put up at the preserve. Cary gave Logan the locations to place the signs.

Preserve Work Day

Earth Day 4/29/23 8-noon

Logan

Logan is on top of the Preserve Work Day and what tasks need to be done. Logan advised that the water is out of the canal right now. Larry would like to get the debris out of the culvert. **Logan** will try on the waders to try to clean it out. **Logan** will meet with **Chuck** about moving cottonwoods and the gauge.

Bio blitz Day 9/23/23

Logan

Logan is trying to get a native plant person to be there. Paint Brush Gardens would be good to have there. Logan will begin to coordinate the Bio blitz day in late May for 9/23.

Newsletter Spring:

Send out in enews that hard copy newsletters are no longer available.

Pam will send an email to the 25 people who are receiving paper copies.

Publish newsletter 1st week April. Cary will make copies and bring to April meeting. Remaining copies will go to Birds Unlimited store. Shannon and Nic have submitted articles. Kersten event is full page.

Other Potential Articles:

Spring Bird Count:

Shannon, Janet, and Harriet met on 3/22/23 to discuss the logistics of the Spring Bird Count. Shannon wrote a newsletter article based on this information.

Harriet has requested a thumb drive of all information from the Tumacanbac trips so that she can evaluate it for pulling off dates, species, and quantity of hawks found to provide to the Hawk Migration Assoc.

CFO Bird Count:

Logan's CFO Team (Whit and Hec) is registered as the Monkey Wrench Gang - Green Category. Last year, Dave Price participated, but will be out of town this year. Last year, Nic participated in the non-competitive category via his regular spring count route. So far, no other Mesa County teams are registered. Current registered teams can be found at <https://charity.pledgeit.org/ColoradoBirdingChallenge> at the very bottom of the page.

Screech Owl Bird Banding Day Saturday May 27th (Open to the Public)

Glenn Giroir and Kim Potter will share bander/educator duties. We have an adequate ladder and Nic has recently found a volunteer to put it up and down. Usually, they try to get ahead of the group and have the ladder up when the group arrives.

Membership Data:

Local members: 173

National members: 400

Pam will work with Cara on developing a better Neon report for membership.

Bird Walks

Bird walk on morning of 6/14 Kersten GJWA Preserve/Connected Lakes

Logan and Whit will do a bird walk on May 7, location to be determined.

Brett will do a bird walk probably Roan Cliffs in late June

Eric prairie dog field trip possibly June

Bird walk in Granite Falls: John Thomas/developer of Granite Falls Subdivision. HOA Officer. **Who** will contact the developer/HOA and lead the walk?

Cary can do a bird walk.

Nic and Logan led a bird walk at Connected Lakes 3/8/23 St. Matts Episcopal Church Nancy Winne lives in Mesa and was interested in "hosting" GVAS on a bird trip.

Big Salt Wash in Fruita is decimated due to tamarisk removal.

Programs REPORT:**Pam**

	First Presbyterian	Whit Blair	Gunnison Sage-grouse
04/17/2023	First Presbyterian	Renee Herring	Madagascar
05/15/2023	First Presbyterian	Abby Burk	Water issues
06/14/2023	Fundraising Program	Tiffany Kersten	Big Year Birder
July	NA	NA	NA
August	NA	NA	NA
September	First Presbyterian		
October	First Presbyterian	Barbara Churchley	Photography

Website:

Some of the links on website don't work. This will be taken care of when we upgrade to Neon. Take off Mike Campbell etc. **Tina and Cary** will update when they meet.

Wetlands Restoration Project**Cary**

No Report.

Social Media**Logan**

No Report.

Secretary:**Janet**

No Report

Next Meeting: 3rd Monday April 17th, 4:30-6:30 pm Presbyterian Church

Facilitator: **OPEN Pam** is out of town.

EMAIL REPORTS**Webmaster/Marketing REPORT:****Tina**

Hot Tomato received advertising materials from Tina for tables and signage around the restaurant. Tina sent Logan the informational flyer. **Tina** will contact the writer and see if she is able to do a Big Bird Year blog for us.

Social Media REPORT:**Logan****Water Center at CMU**

Logan advised and asked for volunteers to participate with The Water Center at CMU and the Outdoors Program who are planning an event for on 4/28/23 for 30 students at Connected Lakes SP to learn about the river, riparian, and wetlands activities.

Conservation REPORT:

Nic

Conservation Colorado Opportunity

Nic provided information on an opportunity to give remote testimony at the [Colorado Clean Cars Listening Session](#). Testimony will be held via Zoom on March 16 from 6-8pm for someone in the Valley who believes EVs are a good strategy to address climate change and reduce emissions. To the best of Nic's knowledge, no one from GVAS participated.

Bird Walk Connected Lakes 3/8/23

Logan and Nic led a bird walk for 14 at Connected Lakes on 3/8/23. We had good luck with birds for a gray, slightly breezy afternoon—had 24 species. This walk was requested/advertised by/through St Mathews Episcopal Church as part of a study/seminar with an evening talk on Eco Theology at CMU.

Granite Falls Subdivision

Nic met with John Thomas – developer of Granite Falls Subdivision – and an officer of the HOA. They walked the area and Nic believes they are sincere about maintaining the wildlife habitat. They expect to add a walking path. They were amenable to signage that dogs should be leashed. This will give us access to a very good area for an owl box or two. Nick suggested that GVAS could lead a *neighborhood bird walk this spring*.

Fox Squirrels

Nick met with the CMU Wildlife Club at the request of Dan Neubaum from CPW. Dan charged the CMU club with researching the issue and coming up with solutions. Dan offered the club guidance, limited field support and materials (traps). *The CMU club will get back to us.*

Conservation Colorado

Conservation CO offered an all-expenses paid opportunity to be part of a group lobbying for environmental issues. Nic asked for name of who (m) would like to participate. Nic also met with Ana Hinojosa, new organizer/conservation rep locally for Conservation Colorado and he invited her to the next board meeting and to program meetings.

Webinar: Roaring Fork Chapter/Watershed Biodiversity Study

Nic attended and invited others to a Webinar by Mark Fuller, Conservation Co-Chair from Roaring Fork Audubon Chapter.

Hawk Migration Association of NA/Tumacacnac Data

Nic and Cary advised that the *Board needs someone* to review the Tumacacnac data and extract the dates and data to provide this information to the Hawk Migration Assn. Harriet has requested a thumb drive of all information from the Tumacacnac trips so that she can evaluate it for pulling off dates, species, and quantity of hawks found to provide to the Hawk Migration Assoc.

Board Recruitment

ALL

Student Board Member replacement