

The Village Birders Annual Meeting

March 16, 2019

The Annual General Membership Meeting of The Village Birders was called to order by President Bob Martin at 9:00 am at the Paradise Recreation Center. There were 53 registered attendees.

Bob M welcomed everyone and also introduced the Officers and Committee Chairs of the club.

Dan Hewins, Treasurer, reported a 2018 beginning bank balance of \$2,722, ending balance of \$2,233, and a current balance of \$2,491. Income in 2018 was \$1,204 from memberships and \$58 from donations. Expenditures were \$48 for office supplies, \$1,122 for speaker honorariums/expenses, \$291 for the picnic and \$30 for a rehab facility donation.

Marlene Babic, Bird Walks & Special Events Chair, reported on some of the plans for the calendar period of October, 2019 thru April, 2020. A mix of local/close and distance walks/special events will be conducted in order to provide a variety of opportunities.

Bob M reported for Membership Chair Kathy Hansen that there are currently 275 members in the club.

Program & Education Chair Alice Horst indicated there were 5 speakers that talked at the Monthly Meetings. The April Meeting talk will be "Bees, Honey and Products". She also reminded us the trip to Ft. De Soto will be on April 10.

The business part of the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 am.

Bob M had the new persons stand and introduce themselves.

Bob Smidt indicated there was a lot of interest expressed by those that attended the Outdoor Expo. He also thanked the members that volunteered their time.

Marlene informed us that the Annual Club Picnic will be held Sunday April 7, at Lake Panasofkee. A walk will occur at 8:00 am and the picnic lunch will begin at 11:00 am. More information will be provided in the near future.

Barb Gay indicated the Half Moon trip on March 26 will include several birding stops on the way. She also informed us the trip to Cedar Key/Goethe State Forest is on April 5.

Bob M attended the March 15 Grand Opening of the Cattail Recreation Area. However, the Hogeye Nature Trail was not open, as was promised.

Bob M introduced Cathy Brown who gave a fabulous talk on the "Florida Scrub-Jays". This bird is endangered and is losing its habitat rapidly. Its population has decreased from about 10,000 to about 3,000 birds in the last several decades. She and her husband have a Nursery business, and established the Florida Scrub-Jay Trail in 2001 to help preserve some Florida scrub-jay habitat. A consortium followed in 2008. A club trip to the Florida Scrub-Jay Trail, in the Clermont area, will take place Monday, March 18.

The meeting was concluded at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted: John Eckstein, Secretary