

The Village Birders Annual Meeting

March 17, 2018

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 80 registered attendees.

Bob M welcomed everyone and noted there were lots of new people attending. He also introduced the Officers and Committee Chairs of the club.

Dan Hewens, Treasurer, reported a beginning bank balance of \$3,040.63. Income for 2017 was \$944, almost totally from membership dues. Main expenses were \$750 for speakers, \$175 for a boat rental used in a bird count, \$144.32 for the picnic, \$95.22 for a new club banner and \$98.32 for office supplies and the website cost. Ending balance was \$2,721.77.

John Eckstein, Secretary, indicated minutes of last year's Annual Meeting had been made available for reading prior to today's meeting. It was agreed to dispense with reading those minutes. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes.

Marlene Babic, Co-Chair of the Bird Walk and Special Events Committee indicated the walks and special events are being planned for the fall and winter season. The expectation is to have more special events. One possible event would be a trip to the Ornithology Dept. at the University of Florida.

Kathy Hansen, Chair of Membership, stated there are currently 225 members of the club. Bob M gave a report for Alice Horst, Chair of Program & Education, indicating she has five committed speakers for the calendar beginning this fall.

Barb Athanasiou, Chair of Web Site, reported that the current web site is not working. With Bob M's help a new web site is being developed. Cards were available on the sign-in table with the new web address. Charlie Martin, Chat Group Leader, expressed his thanks to Bob M for his extensive contributions during the transition from Yahoo to Google Chat Group. Bob Cole, Archivist, described his responsibilities including keeping an account of all birds seen during official club walks and events.

John conducted the election of officers for the upcoming two-year term. The following people were placed in nomination: Bob Martin for President, Bob Smidt for Vice President, John Eckstein for Secretary, and Dan Hewins for Treasurer. When no further nominations were made from the floor, a motion was made, seconded and carried for the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates. The business portion of the meeting was completed at 9:17 am.

It was announced that Charles Glatzer, a internationally known photographer, is speaking April 18, at Colony Recreation Center at 6:00 pm. The talk will include valuable input on bird photography.

Bob Smidt reported there was a lot of interest at the Expo, which resulted in several new club members. He also indicated there were copies of "birding locations in The Villages" on the sign-in table.

Bob M addressed that issues with Yahoo resulted in the change to Google for the web chat activities. If problems are encountered members should contact Charlie or Bob M. Also, concern has been expressed with the way people respond to emails sent out to all members. Some responses have gone to all members rather than just the person sending the email. If responses are to go just to the one sender the responder should be careful to address the email correctly to avoid it going to all members.

Bob C indicated the trip to Carney Island on March 19 would take place rain or shine. Barb Gay emphasized the need to consolidate riders in the parking lots to avoid having excess cars going on drives thru various birding locations.

The Club Picnic will be held April 8, at Lake Panasoffkee Wild Life Management area. An email with details was sent out to all members by Alice. Marlene is in charge of the picnic this year. This phase of the meeting was completed by 9:30 am.

Gary Babic gave a very informative talk on "Quick ID of Soaring Birds" seen in The Villages area. Included were tips on bird shapes, movement, color and relative size of bird features, shape of tails, position of legs, etc.

Gary introduced Paul Nistico, who gave the main program, sharing his experiences "Birding in Northwestern Belize". Paul gave us a background on Belize including a little history. He and Patsy did their birding while staying at the Chan Chich Lodge in Orange Walk District near the border with Guatemala. They spent five days of intense birding including several night trips. A total of 150 species were identified during their trip. He shared many amazing photographs taken during their adventure.

The meeting was completed at about 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted: John Eckstein, Secretary