



Audubon Society of Kalamazoo

Annual Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2023

Board Present: Donna Keller, Ilse Gebhard, Sue Creager, Nate Strong, Pam Jackson, Susan Schneider

Board Absent: Gail Walter, Dave Lemberg

Members Present: Approximately 30

Donna called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

1. **Approval of May 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Donna asked if anyone had edits or additions to the 2022 annual meeting minutes; none were voiced. She then asked the members present to approve the minutes; Bill Surna moved to approve the minutes, and Sharon Surna seconded, all members present approved.
2. **Shana Ramsey, Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery** – Welcomed all ASK members and thanked the organization for partnering on various programs over the past year.
3. **Kathy Sims and Brandon Bear, Mattawan Elementary School** – Thanked ASK for the financial support in the form of an education grant for student transportation. The education grant benefited 130 3rd graders with year-round outdoor learning opportunities. A Mattawan parent spoke as well and ASK was given numerous letters from the children thanking the organization.
4. **Susan Schneider introduced ASK's new program - Beginning Birding Walks** – These walks will be held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM. They are targeting beginner birders, but all are welcome. The walks are tentatively planned to rotate between the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery and UpJohn Park and will start this summer.
5. **Survey Recap** – Pam Jackson spoke briefly about the ASK Member Survey results. A complete survey recap will be sent to members over the summer.
6. **Birdathon Recap** – ASK had two Birdathon teams this year, and both had a successful day of birding! The first team, *Birders of a Feather* included Jan Shillito, Nate Strong and Gail Walter; they identified 111 species. The second team, *Kal-Haven Bird Trekkers*, included Donna Keller, Kent Martin, Joanna Sblendorio, and Mike Dreibelbis; they identified 139 different species. The birders enjoyed their day and ASK raised \$2,859 through the Birdathon for the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's Sand Creek Preserve and the American Bird Conservancy.
7. **Election of Board Members** – The ASK membership approved the slate of board members for the 2023-2024 year. They include:
 - a. President – Donna Keller
 - b. Vice President – Dave Lemberg
 - c. Secretary – Pam Jackson
 - d. Treasurer – Mark Jackson
 - e. Board Member (3-year term) – Susan Schneider
 - f. Board Member – (1 year of a 3-year term) – Ilse Gebhard
 - g. Board Member (3-year term) – Gail Walter
 - h. Past President (1-year term) – Nate Strong



Joyce Leppard moved to approve the slate and Melanie Perry seconded the motion, all members present voted to approve the slate.

- 8. Upcoming Field Trips** – The final May field trips were announced and included:
 - a. Saturday, May 20, 9:30 AM - Brown Sanctuary, Berrien County, Co-leaders: Sue Creager and Kent Martin.
 - b. Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 PM - Portage Bicentennial Trail Celery Flats Parking Lot on Garden Lane (east end of lot) Co-leaders: Donna Keller and Jan Shillito.
 - c. Weekly Kal-Haven Trail Walks - Tuesday mornings at 8:00 AM through May.
 - d. The Field Trip details can be found on the ASK website - <https://kalamazooaudubon.org/>.
- 9. Donna asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10.** Jan Shillito made the motion and Russ Schipper seconded the motion; all members present approved.
- 10. Bird Walk** – Donna invited all members present to enjoy a bird walk around Wolf Lake.

The meeting concluded at 7:15 PM.

There was a meeting PPT presentation that can be viewed here -



The meeting concluded at

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