

MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: September 27, 2018

Present: Rita Baden, Monica Rauchwarter, Rob Daves, Becky Lystig, Craig Mandel, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Bob Williams.

The agenda and membership list were distributed ahead of time. Rob distributed the May minutes ahead of time. Walt distributed the June-August treasurer's reports ahead of time and at the meeting.

Matthew called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary: Rob moved that we accept the minutes, Bob seconded. Approval was unanimous. Rob asked for clarification of his duties according to the by-laws. There was no clear direction, except that he should talk with Tracy Albinson about getting minutes posted on the web site.

Treasurer: Walt reviewed the June through September treasurer's reports.

Membership: No one could open the updated membership list that Greg sent Matthew, who forwarded it to board members. The board agreed that we should communicate using only files that commonly-accepted software can open (e.g., PDF, XLS, Docx, etc.)

Trumpeter newsletter: Steve will do a piece on the CBC. There should be notice of the MOU paper session Dec. 1 and a call for our volunteers to help with refreshments. The young birder club (see below) would make a good story. Becky requested that authors send their content to Anne by Oct. 1.

Programs: Johanna Whyte of New Zealand Sea Lion Trust will do an October talk on conservation there. The auction will be Nov. 15 in lieu of a regular board meeting.

Old Business:

- Monica updated the board on the Five Hawks Elementary School grant. Bob asked Monica to get some details from Sue Mohn for giveMN.org's website to promote giving to MRVAC.
- Steve Weston reported earlier that a group we provided binoculars and seed money, Amy Simso Dean's Young Birder's Club in the Minneapolis Public Schools, was featured in the August 2018 ABA Birders Guide to Conservation and Community.
- Our sign can't go up until construction at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge is closer to being done.
- Monica reported on the results of our Audubon grant of \$1,600 to fund youth birder intern in Bloomington, Tate Gregor, who works through Richardson Nature Center. His work ends in October.

New Business:

- Rita will coordinate refreshments at the MOU paper session Dec. 1. She estimated the cost would be \$300, which will be funded by MOU. We'll ask for volunteers at the October meeting.
- Kate Fitzmier at the Ney Nature Center and its board of directors has asked for a grant for binoculars (20) and a spotting scope (1). Rob moves that we make a grant of \$1,600; Matt seconded. It was approved unanimously.

- Craig asked for MRVAC to explore sponsoring tours through Holbrook Travel Co. (Florida) in which Holbrook would return some of the tour funds to MRVAC. Craig said he would work with Holbrook to get details: funding, costs, liability, etc. The board agreed in principle, and asked Craig to report the details back to the board in October for additional discussion.
- Matthew reported a query about an estate planning gift but there was no follow-up. The board took this as a point of information.
- Monica reported on the results of our Audubon grant of \$1,600 to fund youth birder intern in Bloomington, Tate Gregor, who works through Richardson Nature Center. His work ends in October.
- Becky suggested creating a flier with meeting dates and programs for the year. She should approach Steve, since he's the program chair.

Bob moved to adjourn at 6:56 p.m., and Rob seconded. Matthew declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary