

March 21, 2024

Minutes of the Soarin Hawk, Board of Directors

Attendees – M. Dobbs, B Walton, J Moore, L Weber, A Butler, T Geers, Jacob Hardy, Mark Watts. Andy on trip.

Secretary Report – prior month minutes accepted as published, Mike, Bob motioned.

Treasurers Report (Mike) – Over five years, expenses have risen by \$7,000 per year. We are reliant on a handful of people for large donations. We have been rather passive about cultivating donors. Abi proposes that we create a subcommittee of three people to look into options for new fund-raising opportunities. Do we need a strategic plan? Support a bird campaign? Abi proposes a half-day retreat in June to set goals for the future. Food is greatest increase in cost. **Mike and Mark will talk after meeting to set something up and talk about annuities rather than CDs.**

Avian Report (Bob) – Taken in 26 birds this year, turned out 5, euthanized 13, rehabbed 4, transferred 2. If we can save half, we've done well. Throughput is approximately 10 days. Mostly, Red-tailed Hawks and owls. Eight presentations delivered this year. Some months are at capacity for presentations. All permits have been processed or in process. WMEE and Three-Rivers will provide a month of free advertisement.

Spring Clean Up – April 13, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Weather backup April 27. Need participants. **Lou will see if Eco Club from USF can move gravel on that date. Lou will inform Mike about whether students can come before he orders gravel.**

Proposed Projects for 2024 –

- Extension cord (would require Ross to dig through gravel) – not easy, no immediate plans to proceed and volunteer(s) desired
- Food chute – not necessary in Bob's opinion, no action will be taken
- Inspect and repair buildings (appearance thing) – no plans for action were suggested
- Lock system – tend to freeze, **needs lubrication 2-3 times per year (Mike, Ted), operator error, needs maintenance**
- Nature trail with benches – **we need concrete benches to resist fire (Mike)**
- Bee hives – agreement with DNR is to cultivate native pollinators, so no bee hives
- Move hack box to prairie – **8'x8'x8' in process (Bob)**
- Benches at memorial garden – **benches will be built by Eagle Scout (Bob)**
- Redo Bldg 5 – **needs gravel, which will have to be wheelborrowed and shoveled by hand. Lou will contact Eco Club at USF about volunteer help.**
- Redo Building for Jeff – **Ted will talk to volunteers about the possibility of moving Jeff to part of flight pen. Ted will exercise Jeff in the pen. Ted is in the process of consulting with Kim W. about this**
- Obtain retired Peregrine Falcon – **Bob has approval to obtain a retired Peregrine and move around some Red-tailed Hawks if necessary or use Jeff's pen.**
- Mount displays in office – **Ted will form a plan and build shelves or something similar.**
- Donor sign – **Ross will be installing posts when the weather breaks. Sign materials already prepared.**

Next Meeting – In person on April 25.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lou Weber and approved by Board on April 25, 2025.