

Texas Ornithological Society

Executive Committee Minutes

Zoom Call

May 25, 2024

Present were Romey Swanson, Pam Pipes, Lorrie Mathers, Lynn Thompson, and Judy Kestner.

President Romey Swanson called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

Minutes: Lynn Thompson read the minutes from Part 2 of the May TOS Board Meeting in Weslaco. Romey pointed out that three bullet points were lacking information in Part 1 minutes. Lynn will get with Susan Foster to correct. Part 2 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Lorrie Mathers gave an overview of the month of April. We started with \$1,026,674 and ended at \$985,993. This was due to monies being distributed to Byron Stone to reimburse him for flights on the Alaska trip, to Texas Parks & Wildlife for Youth birding team sponsorships in the Great Texas Birding Classic, and other expenses. Lorrie noted the amount of \$985,993 seemed lower due to how TOS's investments are performing. We have four new life memberships. Lorrie said we can look at the financial report attached to Romey's email announcing this meeting.

He proposes a monthly Zoom of about 30 minutes called "Treasurer's Chat". He will try it for 2-3 months to see if members are interested. Golden Triangle Audubon Society (GTAS) deposited \$11,500 cash in the Sabine Woods account; 20% is returned to GTAS.

Lorrie also reports he has no budget items for Hook Woods or Magic Ridge. He sent a note to sanctuary manager Shelia Hargis to remind her she has a \$20,000 budget. He suggests an Investment Committee meeting three times a year with our investment advisor. We might want another person on this committee.

Lorrie then brought up the subject of changing Judy Kestner from a 1099 to a W-2 IRS filing status. Will be helpful to set up if we hire additional staff later. There will be some work to set it up, which Lorrie is willing to do.

Weslaco meeting May update: Judy Kestner said we had 70 people registered, 61% of the 117 registered at the January meeting. Most of the reviews were positive.

Romey wants us to think about partnering with Birding the Border in Del Rio for next spring's TOS meeting. They are interested in partnering with us. We will discuss it further at the June meeting. Side note: Romey asked Judy to send out a press release to encourage youth campers at Rio Diablo Birders Camp. TOS used to sponsor a camper but we haven't since COVID. Lynn Thompson made a motion to donate \$500 to sponsor a camper, Pam Pipes seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Committees & Committee Chairs: Romey would like to review committees and chairs. Judy reports there are five or six committees we don't have or are not active.

Draft Strategic Plan: Romey Swanson will review this again and asked the board to review as well for their suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Thompson, Secretary.