

Board Meeting December 12th, 2023

- Called to order 5:04 PM
 - Board Members Present: Jim Maul, Leslie Lopez, Alex Earl, Jim Nindel-Edwards, Sam Robinson, Suzanne Whitney
 - Staff: Nicole Mathes, Samantha Zeiner
 - Guest: Susan Setterberg
- Introductions by Jim Maul, and getting things started with Nicole's budget presentation so that we have plenty of time.
- Meeting minutes from October
- Meeting minutes from November
 - Tabled until next meeting, Jim had comments and wants to wait until all board members are present.

- Nicole Mathes – Contract Accountant, HR specialist, (CFO) – Budget Presentation:
 - Bringing up draft budget, and year and statements on screenshare, board members received in email form.
- Alex Earl makes a motion to approve the budget, Sam Robinson seconded.
 - Jim Maul echoes Alex's statement: "An investment in conservation and nature pays dividends over time. This makes the friends unique." – Alex Earl
 - All in favor – unanimous motion
- Jim Maul wants to ensure that Leslie Lopez knows she is very appreciated for her work as treasurer, and she will be missed.
- Jim Maul welcomes and offers Susan Setterberg and Leslie Lopez the opportunity to continue to engage with us in smaller ways.
- Suzanne comments
- Motion for Suzanne Whitney to be Treasurer for the Friends as of this meeting
 - Leslie Lopez moves
 - Sam Robinson seconds
 - Unanimously passes
- Strategic Planning: Jim Maul will get back to Cathy and authorize her to proceed, we have the budget, we don't want to let the opportunity languish – so scheduling for February. Please respond to sent requests for information as we go.
 - Need to choose a time to physically all get together for an in-person facilitated day of work at the Refuge. Saturday day?
- The LUNA training that Sam Z, Suzanne, and Jim M are participating in, and sharing the videos from, will greatly inform our strategic planning work, and can even make it go faster the more we already know, so watching the videos and taking the assessment that was sent out will be helpful.
- Jim Maul and Sam Z will meet to discuss the Annual Meeting and bring it back to the board and get the ball rolling.
 - Sam Z is doing the Annual Report
 - By Jan meeting we will have date and decisions

- If someone on the street stopped you and asked why you were a board member for the Friends, what would you say in three minutes or less? – Be thinking about your drive and reasons for this work, and what the Friends need, and how you can represent both to the world.
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- 25th Anniversary this year
 - Actually probably more like 28 years, as the group was meeting to plan the Frist 1999 BirdFesr long before it happened.
 - Participating in the 4th of July parade in town
 - 25th Anniversary celebrations and ideas, fundraisers
 - “Been around for 25 years, help us stick around for 25 more”
 - We wanted a Nature Center since the formation of the Friends! We wanted it before everyone else, and we did the work to make it happen, and we are here to cross the finish line.