

Audubon Ohio Advisory Board Meeting

Saturday, August 26, 2006

Holiday Inn on the Lane, Columbus, Ohio

Board Members Attending: Lyn Boone, Greg Cunningham,
Sam Fitton, Barry Hunlock, Guy & Katy Mercer, Pete Precario,
Tom Romito, Jack Rupert, Jack Smith, Will Sogg, Liz Woedl,
Burch & Ellen Zehner

Board Members excused: Frances Beasley, David Jenike, Jackie Light, Jan Rodenfels

Chapter Presidents/Guests: Alan Dolan, Bill Heck (COAC), Lori Overmeyer (Goettler Associates)

AO Staff attending: Ellen Armstrong, Cathy Raymond, John Ritzenthaler, Jerry Tinianow, Casey Tucker, Christie Vargo

AO Staff excused: Heather Starck, Marnie Urso

Meeting Start Time: 10:00 AM

1. Call to order, welcome and introductions were presented by Jack Rupert, who chaired the meeting at Will Sogg's request.
2. A Birding Moment was presented by Casey Tucker entitled "State of Transition".
3. The Minutes of the Advisory Board Meeting from April 1, 2006 were approved unanimously with no changes.
4. Tom Romito, Facilitator of the **Ad Hoc Planning Committee**, stated they have been extremely productive with 17 conference calls and a retreat at Grange, and that there will be a draft of the strategic plan to the Board before the Assembly. The committee has identified 5 basic strategies: 1) Education, 2) IBA, 3) Advocacy, 4) Chapters, 5) Audubon Ohio development plan. Extensive discussion regarding the meaning of "direct vs. indirect" conservation has highlighted the difficulty of this issue for the committee, so the committee has sought input from the Board. The draft will contain the core strategy and goals for implementation. A 5-year development vision with adoption at the February meeting is our target. A survey has been sent to all board members for further input.
5. A need to identify the balance between "direct" and "indirect" conservation efforts was described by the **Conservation Committee**. As the language and

- meaning of these two aspects of conservation are essential to measurements of success, other concerns were discussed such as restoration and lobbying and the equal importance of both. The consensus of the board was that the new strategic plan should include provisions for both direct and indirect conservation actions.
6. The issue of “**terms limits**” is a never ending debate as stated by Pete Precario, who requested that input be forwarded to his attention for further review. Written statements describing the pros and cons of term limits were distributed.
 7. The State Assembly is being held on November 10-12 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus. For the purpose of the general audience, the date is November 10th and 11th. The board meeting is on the 12th but will not be publicized to the general public. There will be 25 workshops and one outing. Awards will be given out but will be kept short and on one night only. Every board member was asked to attend and to invite someone. An online version of the registration form will be on our web site and we also need volunteers to help with the Assembly. This brochure will go out to chapters, board members and partners, to be distributed by hand, while the printed newsletter featuring the Assembly will be sent by mass mailing and will be done in late September. The Assembly will be announced in the E-News and the Audubon Activist list will be used as well.
 8. The **Capital Campaign** update was presented by Lori Overmeyer of Goettler Associates and an early draft of the color case statement was handed out. The campaign will be announced to the public “at the right time” in order to obtain the maximum exposure so we can keep funding coming in after the announcement. The presentation showed what the neighborhood around the Whittier Peninsula consisted of and that The Columbus Audubon Center is not dependent on the commercial development of the adjacent property but that it will itself drive the success of the area. Lori quoted Jim Kunk who stated that, “This is Columbus’s NY Central Park.” Guy Mercer recommended that the brochure say Columbus, Ohio somewhere and stress that, while the Center is located in Columbus, it will serve the entire state.
 9. A lunch presentation of the new web site was conducted by Jerry Tinianow and it was requested that surveys and interactive areas be added.
 10. The remaining committee reports were presented:
 - Chapter Relations** (Jackie Light) Jerry Tinianow spoke for the committee chair and reported that it has not functioned over the summer and could use new leadership because Jackie is term-limited.
 - Education Committee** (David Jenike) Jerry Tinianow spoke on their behalf, stating that the committee had not been active recently. He also reported that negotiations were under way with The Design Group to serve as the architectural team for the Columbus Audubon Center and that Audubon Ohio

was selecting a new Owners Rep. We are on track for the design charette (brainstorming session) scheduled for Sept 19th concerning “Green Building” design..

Communications Committee (Tom Romito) A pamphlet on Buy Native Plants was distributed. It had been produced with funding from Audubon At Home funds (and others). Congratulations were conveyed to the Audubon Ohio staff and board for accomplishments in upgrading the web site.

Development Committee (Lyn Boone) The committee stressed the need to continue gift giving as last year’s board goal was met with 100% participation which we hope to repeat this year. They urged everyone to build a relationship with our major donors and send thank you cards and stated an additional thank you will be sent during the Thanksgiving Card mailing. The structure of our Bird-a-thon is being reconsidered. There are 3 events scheduled for major donor cultivation during the current fiscal year; Pete Dunne in Columbus in conjunction with Assembly; John James Audubon exhibit in Cleveland; and the Cincinnati Flower Show. Everyone will be given invitations to all these events.

The resolution approving the submission of a \$250,000 request to the Nationwide Foundation to support the Grange Insurance Audubon Center capital campaign passed unanimously.

Conservation Committee (Sam Fitton) A questionnaire on the extension of deer season was developed and any changes to the questionnaire need to be sent to John Ritzenthaler or Sam Fitton. Numerous discussions with DNR regarding this issue did not have any apparent impact on their decision. It was suggested that Mark Shieldcastle be asked to give the board an update on the cormorant issue and speak at the Assembly if possible. Other current issues were brought to the attention of the board: black vultures eating new born calves; lakefront owners trying to eliminate the beach from being accessible to the public; and a proposed gas pipeline clearing through the Mohican State Forest.

Executive Director and staff reports (Jerry and staff) There was nothing new to report since the written report had gone out, as most of the staff had been on vacation in the interim.

Financial report and budget update (Jerry) Jerry Tinianow reported that our expenses need to be cut or more funds need to be raised in order to end FY07 in balance due to Foundations cutting back on their gifts and the loss of several “old standby” donors. Our time has to be redirected to the capital campaign but this doesn’t change the need to keep the operating budget in balance. In November there will be an update on this issue. It was requested

that along with the minutes of this meeting, a written summary of these budget challenges be included.

11. **Schedule for 2007 meetings:** Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 12th at 10am – 2pm here at the Holiday Inn on the Lane. The board also agreed that the first meeting in 2007 would be on Saturday, February 10 in central Ohio. The board deferred scheduling the remaining 2007 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14pm by unanimous consent.