

Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors, 11/03/25

Gateway Community Center Gathering Place

Prepared by Michele Tohtz, Secretary

Directors in Attendance: Darcy Thomas, Rod Walette, Linda Du Lac, Pam Willison, Gael Bissell, Cindy Roberts, Tom Roberts, Bob Lee, Ronda Howell, Margaret Parodi, Jake Bramante, Shannon Donaldson, Bridger Donaldson, Ken Fielder and Michell Tyler

Others in Attendance: Jess Garby, Kelly Bednara, Daniel Lombardi

The meeting was called to order by President, Darcy Thomas at 5:31 PM

Minutes: Corrections were made to the October minutes. Margaret made a motion to approve and Pam seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Rod reviewed the financial report. The Great Fish money will be distributed by Rod to various accounts, with Dan's advisement. This will maximize interest accrual. Bob moved to file the financial report, Gael seconded. Approved unanimously.

Old Business: Wings 2026 planning

Darcy shared that The Hilton was much more expensive, so the Conference will be at the Red Lion.

Darcy will be sending an email to everyone regarding committees and signups.

New Business: Daniel Lombardi presented his artwork.

Daniel worked in Glacier Park banding birds and he took photographs of the project. He developed his work into cyanoart and plans to have an exhibit at a local art studio in March and April of 2026. Lisa Bate and Daniel will give a presentation at an opening ceremony of the exhibit and would like FAS to have a table there to help support the project. Daniel would like to donate the profits from the art sale to FAS for conservation efforts. It was suggested that he could be our speaker for March. Displaying his art at the Wings festival might also be a possibility.

Education Coordinator update –

Jess successfully worked with many different groups and generally had an exciting month. She educated 124 students and connected with 286 people through public outreach.

November 17th at 6 PM there will be an Open House, complete with refreshments, in Jess's office. Keep saving toilet paper rolls and bird magazines for Jess!

Committee Reports:

Great Fish: Darcy will make a video thank you for the Whitefish Community Foundation at the upcoming general meeting.

History: Linda and the committee are still collecting oral histories. They are gathering and documenting the history to create a booklet for the 50th year celebration.

Conservation: Gael and others had a conservation meeting before the BOD meeting. Gael, Kelly, Dale, and Carole are on the committee. Dale and Carole will create articles for the PP. Gael welcomes other topic ideas. A stronger focus on conservation was agreed to be important and needing more of our efforts.

Field Trips: Margaret outlined this month's field trips. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate. December's field trip will simply be the CBC.

Membership: Linda shared that we have 310 members with 61 new members. There were 174 total donors for the Great Fish. Linda asked for assistance at the front table during the general meetings.

Newsletter: Julie sent an email asking for bios from Ken and Michell. They both will send their info to Julie. We reviewed the contents for the December PP.

Owen Sowerwine: Pam has walked some of the trails with her new knee! Jake reported vandalism on one of the signs. Pam repaired the sign.

Programs: Ronda now has a March speaker, so she has all the speakers lined up for the remainder of our meetings. She also has possibilities for more speakers.

Outreach and Publicity: Jake and Jess are taking care of all the social media. Jake will send a Fly By before the next meeting.

Nominating Committee: Bob will start trying to recruit new board members after Christmas.

Merchandise: There was discussion regarding options for merchandise, including adding a canvas tote bag. Jake will create a poll to gauge our interest in the proposed items.

CBC: Shannon has communicated with Chris West, who is coordinating the Bigfork CBC. Denny plans to have a signup sheet at his upcoming library presentation.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jake seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.