

## Board Meeting Notes

Friends of Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge

Mile 6, Maui Veterans Hwy, Kihei, Hi. 96753

Date: Dec 12, 2019

Time: 105 pm

Location: Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, Visitor Center

Board Members Present: Barry Solomon, Gloria Snyder, Skip Snyder, Bruce Butler, Lourdes Venard, Joe Dratz, Marily Wright and Courtney Brown. Absent Heather Wade

### Actions:

1. Minutes from Oct. 1 2019, and First Annual Friends Meeting / Nov 7, 2019 approved and accepted. Gloria 1<sup>st</sup> Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Treasurers report: Barry Solomon presented our 4th Quarter Financial Report. Each member received a written copy. In summary, our financial status is good. We have 55 members including 3 lifetime members. Nature store has doubled sales for the quarter. Motion to approve report by Gloria, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lourdes. Report approved.
3. Motion to elect board nominee Marily Wright as a member and Director of Outreach. Bruce moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloria. Unanimous approval, congratulations Marily Wright as our newest board member.
4. Discussion on status of Photo contest: Announcement has been posted on Kealia Web page as a banner and links to application process. Flyer has been produced and shared for distribution. Dept. of Ed. Has been contacted and will support coordination for school notification. Marily Wright has contacted numerous private schools and continues outreach. Bruce will/has contacted "Hawaii Bird Lovers" an active photography group. Bruce and Lourdes will look into Certificates and Plaques for the winners, and look at prizes for first place winners. There is a budget of approximately \$500 for awards. The contest will generate 18 awardees.
5. Courtney discussed the possibility of a Government shut down and how to communicate with the refuge. The primary means to stay informed under normal or unusual circumstances would be to check the Kealia Pond Fish and Wildlife website. Most relevant issues are posted or discussed on the website. [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/kealia\\_pond/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/kealia_pond/)
6. Discussion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday presentations. The January 18 presentation will include: Dr. Susan Cordell, Science Lead, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, USDA Forest Service in Hilo will speak on "greenstripping" with native Hawaiian plants as a fire prevention strategy on Maui. A morning bird walk will include discussion of photography tips by Lourdes Venard and Bruce Butler. The floor was open to members to think about possible activities for the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday activities. This could include awards for the photo contest and a speaker about wildlife and scenic photography. To be determined. Sonny Gamponia was mentioned.
7. Discussion regarding wish list on the Kealia website: The wish list in its current form was posted as a space holder and many of the items are already acquired, or no longer needed. A revised wish list shall be organized and posted. We will check with Sonny Gamponia regarding type of tables for outdoor work. It was suggested that a few inexpensive Adirondack chairs could be purchased for the pollinator garden (money has been appropriated by email consensus). Courtney suggested that new office chairs would come under FWS budgets and she would look into this. The interest in having a computer available for board use, and for information searches at the store desk survived and will be further discussed in upcoming

meetings. A spotting scope, and laminated ID cards for plants and animals were suggested as new items. Discussion concluded with a much shorter list and the need to modify the list on the web site. Modifications of the wish list and process to add items was discussed with the following suggestions:

All wish list items must be vetted by the board and the Refuge liaison (Courtney at present) before posting.

The wish list needs to include the estimated price and need or purpose of the item.

The website needs to be clearer about contributions to specific items and targeting donations to that item. Possibly acknowledge contributors.

The process of removing an item from the wish list needs to be clarified and or assigned.

The current wish list should be taken down from the web site ASAP

The Board will address these issues at the next and subsequent meetings.

Also, Bruce and Lourdes will do some photography in the store and add some material to that portion of the web site.

8. Scheduling Board meetings: It was determined that the best time for meetings would be on Thursdays at noon. Most members can meet at this time. As a general practice we would hold meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month if there was need to meet. There would be a meeting at least every other month. Emergency meetings could be called if needed. Moved by Gloria, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barry, vote was unanimous.
9. Discussion of Annual Members meeting affirmed the need to meet in October or November of 2020. Joe Dratz suggested that the meeting have a structure that would include: An overview (PowerPoint), statement of accomplishments, reports from the directors, finance officer, store, and outreach. This would allow questions and input from members at large. Consensus agreed.
10. Heather Wade will be leaving the board in the summer of 2020 and we need to look for someone to take on the Social Media Developer role for the board. All wished Heather well and the best for her future activities. Lourdes may take on some of Heathers responsibilities in the short term.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Bruce Butler, Board Secretary