

BCN Executive Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 10, 2012, 7:00-7:50 PM

Teleconference

Attendees: Joan Bruchman, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Judy Pollock, Diane Rosenberg, Nancy Tikalsky, Chris Van Wassenhove

1. Redstart Campaign Update – Glenn Gabanski

- 18 BCN reps and others pledged \$2,500. To date 39 people have donated \$3,317.21. Bob Fisher will match any DuPage Birding Club donations dollar for dollar and currently will donate \$1,075, bringing the donations total to \$4,392.21, or about 88% of our goal. This is roughly \$608 short of our goal of \$5,000. Incidentally, a last-minute effort to ask for donations right before the end of November deadline resulted in over \$1,000 in donations.
- If the remaining pledgers donate their full pledge we will get \$2,500 more, bringing the total to \$6,892.21.
- In advance of the treasurer sending out notices to the pledgers to send in their pledges, another message was sent to the BCN reps thanking them for their support of the campaign, updating them on the totals, and appealing for any ideas about anyone who might make a donation this week to help us reach our goal of \$5,000 in donations. If we make the goal it will be easier to ask the pledgers to pay their full donation instead of just 88% of what they pledged.
- If the \$5,000 goal is not reached by 12/31/12, we will consider other fundraising options.

2. Public Inspection of BCN Tax Returns – Glenn Gabanski

- As a 501(c)(3) we are obligated to provide copies of our tax forms and our application (Form 1023) to anyone making a request in writing or by a personal request at our place of business or at a quarterly meeting. The copies can be printed and delivered by hand or via mail, or they can be sent by electronic file. A fee for copying can be charged.
- BCN tax forms are currently available in pdf format and can be sent as an attachment to an email. If printed copies are requested a fee of 10 cents per page is suggested.
- Requests by the public can also be made directly to the IRS by completing and filing Form 4506-A (Request for Public Inspection of Copy of Exempt or Political Organization IRS Form).
- For organizations with less than \$25,000 in revenues, a short form e-postcard filing may be made with the IRS.

3. BCN Membership Dues in BCA (facilitated by the American Bird Conservancy) Now Voluntary – Glenn Gabanski

- As of last year, dues to be a member of the Bird Conservation Alliance are voluntary. BCN can remain a member without paying the annual \$100 dues. As a point of information, dues for this year were budgeted and approved at the January 2012 meeting. The committee voted to continue paying the dues in support of the work BCA accomplishes.

4. 2012 Trends Analysis Report – Glenn Gabanski

- The committee is waiting until the fundraising is complete. Little planning can be done without knowing how much there is to spend. After Jan. 1 the committee will revise the RFP and distribute it.
- Judy will send the revised RFP to Cornell as there may be someone there who could help with this project.

5. BCN Sponsoring Fundraising for National Conservation Organizations – Judy Pollock

- The committee agreed that future speakers at BCN meetings should be carefully vetted to ensure the presentation does not include a fundraising pitch, which could detract from BCN's own fundraising goals.

6. CCFPD Outreach to Develop Activities / BCN Participation – Judy Pollock

- Since BCN asked to be involved in the Cook County Forest Preserve District's recreation planning, BCN should work with Kindy Kruller, Senior Planner, on outreach for field trips, beginner birding walks, birding by canoe, etc.
- Unlike current member groups, BCN does not currently have a structure in place for leading such activities.
- After January 1st, Judy will draft an email to be sent to the BCN member club presidents to ask for volunteers to lead various activities in Cook County preserves.
- Since Chris Williamson has developed a beginning birder program for COS and Sierra Club, Joan will contact Chris to see if she would help develop a similar program for BCN and CCFPD. If Chris agrees to work on this program, Judy will send her the relevant CCFPD contact information.

7. BCN Forwarding Informational Emails to Reps – Mary Lou Mellon

- The committee decided to ask member reps at the next quarterly BCN meeting if they would like to be forwarded (via email) newsletters or other informational articles from various national organizations (such as the American Bird Conservancy, Audubon, etc.).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Van Wassenhove
Secretary