

BCN Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Phone Conference

In attendance: Suzanne Checchia, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Lee Ramsey, Nancy Tikalsky, Dave Willard

Not attending: Bobbi Asher, Joan Bruchman

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Lou Mellon at 7:00 pm.

1. Funds for ad for Highland Park bird-friendly decision: Donnie Dann has requested funds for an ad in the *Highland Park Landmark* thanking the Highland Park city fathers for passing the bird-friendly construction for future commercial, industrial and multi-family buildings proposal—in case the measure is passed. Checchia moved to approve \$270 for a one-quarter page, and Tikalsky suggested supplementing the ad with a press release. Both parts of the proposal were approved without objection.

2. Urban Treaty Grant & Partnership Agreement: Mellon explained some of BCN's participation and duties involved in the Urban Treaty Grant, including our expenditures from the funds allocated to the BCN under the grant. She also pointed out that we have requested a number of changes in the first draft of the Partnership Agreement, including removal of an insurance requirement. Tikalsky said that we haven't heard back about the requested changes. No action by the Committee was required.

3. Community Bird Conservation Consultant: The Urban Treaty Grant provides the option that BCN appoint a Community Bird Conservation Consultant to direct and supervise Grant activities. This is a paid position, with the money coming from the grant, and the minutes of the July 25 Executive Committee meeting acknowledge Judy's informing BCN of her conflict of interest. Judy Pollock was proposed to fill the position and was unanimously approved.

4. BCN Survey: Pollock is also taking full responsibility and overseeing changes in the BCN Survey, following Ramsey's resignation from the Survey effective at the end of this year. It was proposed that Pollock be awarded an annual honorarium for directing the Survey of \$400, which was approved. Mellon will discuss this with her.

5. Gabanski noted that it may be time to increase BCN membership dues, which haven't changed since the organization was formed in 1999. The Committee approved an increase to take effect on January 1, 2016, to \$100 annually for organizations and \$35 for individual members (from \$75 and \$25).

6. Bird Monitors Brunch: The Brunch, held annually as a thank-you to the Survey's monitors, needs someone to replace Joan Bruchman in 2016. Dave Willard volunteered to do so.

7. BCN is leading several walks for beginning birders later this month as part of Cook County Forest Preserves' 100-year celebration. Checchia pointed out that we should be publicizing these walks. Mellon responded that we will do so nearer to the events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Ramsey, Secretary