

AUDUBON OHIO
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Saturday, February 10, 2007
The Design Group, 515 E. Main St., Columbus

Prior to the meeting, several board members toured the Design Group building.

Board Members Attending: Liz Woedl, Robin Mullet, Ellen Zehner, Burch Zehner, Alan Dolan, Barry Hunlock, Guy Mercer, Frances Beasley, Bill Heck, David Wright, Tom Romito, Jack Smith, Jack Rupert, Cheryl Roberto, Sam Fitton, Jan Rodenfels, Greg Cunningham, and Carol Hall (via phone).

Board Members excused: David Jenike, Katy Mercer, Will Sogg

Guests: Jan Hesbon, Sam Speck, Keith DeVoe, Sam Rosenthal, and Loren Isakson.

AO Staff attending: Cathy Raymond, John Ritzenthaler, Heather Starck, Jerry Tinianow, Casey Tucker, Christie Vargo, Doreen Whitley

AO Staff excused: Ellen Armstrong, Marnie Urso

1. Liz Woedl called the meeting to order and welcomed all. She introduced new members and guests and thanked all for attending.
2. The Minutes of the Advisory Board Meeting of November 12, 2006 were approved unanimously with no changes.
3. Jerry Tinianow reported that Jack Rupert and Liz Woedl had been re-elected to new three-year terms, and Bill Heck and Cheryl Roberto were elected to new three-year terms at the annual meeting on January 24. David Wright and Carol Hall were unanimously elected to fill unexpired terms of, respectively, one year (David) and two years (Carol). New officers were elected unanimously: Liz Woedl – Pres.; Jack Rupert – VP; Greg Cunningham – VP-Finance & Administration; Burch & Ellen Zehner – Joint Secretaries; Frances Beasley – At Large Executive Committee. The Board unanimously adopted the attached amendment to Section 7.4 of the Policies and Procedures. Finally, the Board agreed to meet on April 14th at French Creek Metropark in Lorain County; August 25 in Columbus; and October 27 at Aullwood Audubon Center in Montgomery County.
4. A twist on “A Birding Moment” was presented by John Ritzenthaler by handing out a quiz.
5. Discussion opened regarding how the Development Plan and Strategic Plan will be combined and the main goal for the plan as a whole. Weaknesses in obtaining major donors were identified. The expectations for board members to participate in a donor cultivation strategy were presented and many appreciated the variety of choices. No substantive changes in either draft plan were suggested by any board member. The Plans will be offered for final approval at the April meeting.

6. An addition to the agenda, Alan Dolan gave the board insight on the workings of the National Board during its January 2007 meeting. Global Warming is now the highest priority with Katrina-related wetland issues being second in a tiered system.
7. Christie Vargo gave an update on the Center Capital Campaign. To date, \$8 million has been raised in cash, written pledges and oral pledges. Jan Rodenfels expressed excitement about new donors such as Abercrombie & Fitch. Columbus Audubon has committed to \$100K for GIAC, but the gift has not been made public yet. Smaller events geared toward a targeted group have been very successful. These should lead to larger gifts and build a better foundation for future asks.
8. Doreen Whitley was introduced and explained her role with GIAC. Partnering with local schools and their teachers in order to bring science to students is a current focus. Teachers in Columbus schools have not been able to incorporate science at all so far and would like science to be a hands-on “fun” experience for the students. A Science Fair has been planned.
9. The remaining Committee reports were presented:

Chapter Relations (Tom Romito, Chair) Tom assumed the new role of Chair and listed members. The first meeting will be held before the end of the month.

Education (David Jenike, Chair) Heather Starck spoke on behalf of David. The Committee is revising issues of the Audubon Adventures publications, placing pilot programs in schools. Aullwood will be an active partner in this effort.

Communications Committee (Robin Mullet, Chair) Members were listed. NAS is doing a template for “elevator conversation” for introducing Audubon to others.

Development Committee (Greg Cunningham, Chair) Handed out Birdathon information. The Committee is recruiting new members.

Conservation Committee (Sam Fitton, Chair) Sam and other committee members gave detailed updates on items the Committee has been involved with which included reports on: Middle Bass, Coast Guard firing zones, Black Vulture issues, Global Warming, the Great Lakes Compact, Ohio’s new Governor and his administration, the Columbia Gas timber harvesting in the Mohican Forest, new light bulbs, wind energy, and the “keep cats inside” campaign.

10. Executive Director and staff report

- **Christie Vargo:** spoke of the Feb. 28th Cleveland Museum of Natural History event for donor cultivation, in which the museum is featuring John James Audubon artwork. There will also be an event at the Cincinnati Flower Show on April 26th – JJA’s birthday! And Steve Kress will be the guest speaker. There will be bird banding prior to the April board meeting

- more information will follow. The Grange gift was listed in the Annual Report.

- **Casey Tucker:** gave two presentations at Aullwood.
- **Heather Starck:** nothing in addition to earlier update on GIAC.
- **Cathy Raymond:** Turn in your Conflict of Interest Forms
- **John Ritzenthaler:** had no further updates.
- **Marnie Urso:** Received a grant for global warming activities such as generating letters to editors.
- **Jerry Tinianow:** Financial report was discussed regarding the status of current and projected budgets. On April 14th will have another update.
- **Liz Woedl:** solicited representatives to attend the next NAS board meeting in Utah (May 16th and 17th).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm by unanimous consent.

A brief tour of the Design Group building as well as a trip to the GIAC Whittier site followed at the close of this meeting.