

2020 FoT Annual Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 3, 2020  
Via ZOOM, 7:00pm, @25 in attendance

The 2020 annual meeting of the Friends of Tamarac was called to order by President Sue Braun at 7:00pm. Refuge liaison Kelly Blackledge explained online meeting etiquette.

The president's report followed. Sue thanked all refuge staff, Friends of Tamarac members and volunteers for making 2020 such a good year. She mentioned how our projects and programs had moved to virtual and socially distanced offerings and praised the creativity of those involved for making these events happen. She added that we have increased our electronic presence on Facebook, Instagram and our website to publicize and undertake our fundraising efforts, including a new fundraiser, an online auction.

The secretary's report was read. Motion to approve by Bill Henke, second by Jim Sinclair. Approved.

Jim Sinclair provided the treasurer's report. He showed a 3-year comparison, influenced by an inventory adjustment made this year. Overall, he stated that Friends of Tamarac is in good financial shape because of reasonable expenses and spending for 2020, and that we should end the year with a \$16,000-\$17,000 surplus, a strong balance moving forward. Donations, memberships and fundraising have been good considering it has been a difficult year. Tom LaBarre moved to approve the report, seconded by Jim Snyder. Approved.

Refuge Manager Kent Sundseth updated the group on refuge activities for the year. Keeping staff healthy has been a priority. Creative visitors' services options have maintained the number of people visiting and using the refuge, in spite of no buildings being open. Staff has been able to help with West Coast fire relief, maintain trails, do habitat work, prepare fire breaks and continue planning for the accessible trail near the Discovery Center. They also continue to work on the habitat management plan and the visitors' services plan.

Under business Sue acknowledged new board members Emma King, Sunshine Englund, Gauge Englund, Bruce Imholte and Jim Snyder. Also under business was the election of officers. The following slate of officers was considered:

President--Bill Henke  
Vice President--Mike Becraft  
Secretary--Becky Aarestad  
Treasurer--Bruce Imholte

After a call for other nominations, Jim Sinclair moved that nominations cease and that the membership cast a unanimous vote for the ballot as presented. Seconded by Les Perry.. Approved.

In other business, Mike Becraft encouraged members to reach out to organizations, churches, etc., to try to secure donations for the Access to Soar project. A question from the floor concerned the amount of dollars raised by the online auction--about \$6,000. Thanks was offered to Sue Braun, Jim Sinclair and Terry Krile for their service as board members.

There was no other business.

Office Manager Nancy Fischer presented the Access to Soar powerpoint which will be used as Friends of Tamarac seeks donations for its part of the project, a cement pad where the Patrick Shannon "Soaring" sculpture, accessible picnic tables and seating will be located. Plans are for the area to be used as a picnic area, for environmental education purposes and as a location to enjoy the panoramic view of that area of the refuge.

The meeting concluded at 6:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca M. Aarestad, Sec.