



Saint Paul Bird Alliance

Board of Directors Minutes Monday, January 5, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

**Amherst H. Wilder Conference Center
451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104
Conference Room 2510**

1) Welcome and Call to Order

The Saint Paul Bird Alliance Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, January 5, 2026. President Kiki Sonnen called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Those attending were Vice-President Debbie Brown, Treasurer Neil Carlson, Secretary Amanda Rice, Monica Bryand, Owen Stefanich.

2) Approve Last Month's Minutes

Monica motioned to approve minutes with one revision, Neil seconded. Unanimously approved.

3) Treasurers Report - Neil Carlson

Neil provided the following update on our current assets as of January 5, 2025.

- US Bank Checking: \$15,866
- US Bank Savings: \$16,141.88
- US Bank Certificate: \$17,088.14 – Maturity date is July 10, 2026
- TruStone Certificate: \$35,408.77

The annual fund drive brought in \$2,873.68 in donations. This compares with \$1,928 from 43 contributors last year. Neil will transfer money out of savings and into checking to pay grants in the next month. Kenyon has the names to send thank you notes.

4) Program Committee - Kiki Sonnen. programs are now finalized and confirmed for January through May. January 8 speaker Tammah Watts will present on Zoom. Rebecca Heisman (Zoom) is speaking in February and Hope Flanagan is speaking in March (in-person).

5) Winter Count results and look to the future - Kiki Sonnen. We had 120 participants vs. last year's count of 97. Species count was 53 (last year was 54), though we are still waiting for documentation on a Broad-winged Hawk. Total bird count was 13,815, vs. the 2024 count of 14,764.

6) Education committee revitalization - Kiki Sonnen. Focus on education advocacy, could also include speaker requests.

7) Grants Program - Craig Cox

Craig was absent this month, so grants will be revisited at the next meeting.

The Friends of Maplewood Nature Center has an unused balance of \$514.02 due to discounts received on native plant purchases. They would like to apply the balance to

interpretive signage. This was approved last month, and Kiki responded to John today with the approval.

Monica provided an overview of the LCCMR grants and encouraged us to think of things our organization could consider (<http://lccmr.mn.gov/>).

8) Conservation Committee Updates - Debbie Brown & Monica Bryand

Developed 2026 work plan which includes 8 efforts: Kestrel (10th box in progress), chimney swifts, Pigs Eye, St Paul East Side, Bird Safe Glass, Keystone, Cardinal Woods, Landscape Revival.

Monica wrote an article for the next Cardinal looking for chimney swift monitor volunteers.

9) Nominating Committee - Kiki Sonnen will lead this. Will include Debbie, Monica and Owen.

10) Motion to Adjourn

Neil moved to adjourn at 6:02 pm. Owen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.