



Saint Paul Bird Alliance

Board of Directors Minutes Monday, February 2, 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, February 2, 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, Craig Cox.

2) Recent bird sightings

3) Discussion of current events: there are vetted lists and organizations we can reference

4) Approve Last Month's Minutes

Debbie motioned to approve minutes, Neil seconded. Unanimously approved.

5) Treasurers Report - Neil Carlson

Neil provided the following update on our current assets as of today. Grant checks have been distributed.

- US Bank Checking: \$26,140.81
- US Bank Savings: \$7,967.86
- US Bank Certificate: \$17,088.14 – Maturity date is July 10, 2026
- TruStone Certificate: \$35,408.77 – Maturity date is this February

6) Committee reports

a) Communication and outreach - Amanda Rice

- i) Kiki had a meeting with Allison Campbell Jensen will help with some of the Facebook and Cardinal communications the second half of the year. She would also like to do some work with the website and WordPress. She and Allison also did a talk for a senior group in Shoreview.
- ii) January program newsletter: 76 people clicked on the registration link. 62 people have viewed the YouTube recording
- iii) January Cardinal newsletter: 1279 opens, 745 unique individuals. Top 5 links clicked: February speaker registration, Owl Prowl event, January YouTube recording, UBC Swifty information, Winter Bird Count article.
- iv) Posted link to February events on Facebook with one line on each event in the post.

b) Conservation committee - Debbie Brown and Monica Bryand

- i) Next meeting is February 16
- ii) Chimney swift monitoring - close to 100 initial volunteers. Will next hold info sessions. Will also have hands-on training and more direction for timing, including Duluth area. Will have more swift-sits in the summer.

- iii) Kestrels return in March. The team is updating predator guards where needed.
 - iv) Still waiting to hear from St. Paul as they go through the hiring process for a new contact.
 - v) Neil provided an update on work with St. Paul city council - turning off office lights for both bird safety and energy efficiency. Provided model from Madison, Wisconsin.
 - c) Education committee - Kiki Sonnen - no update this month
 - d) Field trips and events committee - Kiki Sonnen
 - i) Kiki working with John Z, meeting March 16 with the field trip leaders. Appreciation dinner and event planning.
 - e) Grants committee - Craig Cox
 - i) Discussed memo from January 29, 2026 with revisions to future grant process.
 - f) Nominating committee - Kiki Sonnen. Kiki is leading this, includes Debbie, Monica and Owen. Kiki sent notice to potential candidates, need Secretary for sure. Can also look for additional board members.
 - g) Program committee - Kiki Sonnen. Rebecca Heisman (Zoom) is speaking in February and Hope Flanagan is speaking in March on insects (in-person).
- 7) Other business - continue to think about CCMR grants that our organization could consider (<http://lccmr.mn.gov/>).
- 8) Motion to Adjourn

Monica moved to adjourn at 6:31 pm. Debbie seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.