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Sandy Creek Nature Center, Inc., a private, non-profit organization, partners with Athens-Clarke County to support, promote and protect the environmental education and preservation efforts of Sandy Creek Nature Center.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date – June 6, 2022

Start: 5:30 p.m. **End:** 7:05 p.m.

Location: Sandy Creek Nature Center

✓	Task	Reporter
	<p>Present- Katherine Edison, Eugenia Thompson, Halley Page, Gary Crider, Alison Huff, Gwen Lott, Manita Dean, Mary Lou Neuhauser, Edith Hollander, Rachael Hawthorn</p> <p>Also present- Randy Smith</p> <p>Absent - Tammy Freeman, Emily Carr, Tammy Kemper, Peter Hawman, Mark Ralston</p> <p>Guest - Claude Gonzalez (Board Candidate), Emily Bailey</p>	
	<p>Approval of Minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no changes and the minutes were accepted as presented. 	
	<p>President's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced new operations coordinator Emily Bailey and new board candidate Claude Gonzalez. Emily starts work on June 10, and has been training with Katie Eckardt. • Over \$3,000 received as memorial donation for Al Ike • Thanks to board members for voting to move regular meetings to Tuesday going forward. The next Board meeting will be July 5. • The 50th Anniversary committee has been meeting, and a report will be submitted at the July board meeting. • The bench in memory of Rhonda has arrived!. Randy will get it installed on the trail after summer camp concludes. • Good-bye party for Katie will be at Terrapin Beer with pot luck treats. • This is Manita Dean's last official meeting! She is stepping down from the board. Katherine presented her with a certificate of thanks for her many years of dedicated service. • Remember to record volunteer hours and to sign-up for Playscape duty. 	Katherine Edison

	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachael Hawthorn presented the P&L statement and the Balance Sheet. She also noted that Oconee Rivers Audubon renewed as a corporate sponsor at the \$300 level. The reports were accepted as presented. 	Rachael Hawthorn
	<p>Operations Coordinator’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

✓	Committees	
	<p>Fund Raising Committee Chair – Emily Carr Members – Edith Hollander, Gary Crider, Manita Dean, Mary Lou Neuhauser, Peter Hawman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gift Shop — \$9,932.51 - Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katherine reminded board members that the Silent Auction is coming soon and to seek out donations. - Donors - Other 	
	<p>Marketing & Membership Committee Chair – Katherine Edison Members – Eugenia Thompson, Gwen Lott, Mark Ralston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FlagPole Magazine has approached Inc. to purchase a \$1600 ad in the next issue of the FlagPole Guide to Athens, something we have done many times in the past. Randy said it didn’t seem to be useful for generating new memberships. Others were in favor of marketing the upcoming 50th anniversary year-long events. Edith proposed an ad which both had general marketing information about SCNC <u>and</u> mentioned the 50th Anniversary. A vote was taken on whether or not to place the ad, with unanimous consent to do it. - Membership - Annual Meeting - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gwen is seeking help from anyone who has experience with creating Time Capsules. 	
	<p>Governance Committee Chair – Tammy Kemper Members – Halley Page, Tammy Freeman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> four new board member candidates are on the ballot Ballots have been distributed for annual elections and votes are coming in. - Education - Processes - Other 	

	<p>Finance Committee Chair – Rachael Hawthorn Members - Alison Huff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investments - Taxes - Insurance - Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison presented a review of the endowment policy proposal to new members. Rachael also reviewed that this proposal comes about because of our fiduciary responsibility and the fact that we have no hard records of donor wishes. • There was discussion about why the “Growth and Income” option is being recommended by the finance committee. • A vote was taken on whether to accept this Endowment Policy, in which 10 votes were in favor of acceptance, and 0 votes opposed. • A second vote was taken on accepting Growth and Income as the investment objective, with 10 votes in favor of acceptance, and 0 votes opposed.
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✓	Facility Supervisor’s Report
	<p>Reporter – Randy Smith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managed Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine trees are really growing fast right now. The Chestnut tree area was recently cleared with the masticator machine. 20 -21 chestnut trees are still hanging in there. - Playscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interns are blowing the walkway regularly and there is plenty of mulch for anyone who cares to volunteer to spread it. • There was discussion about re-activating the playscape committee to keep pressure on workers to finish up their commitments - Brick Factory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing on the site has wrapped up and a report will be written soon. - Restroom Renovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JP Lemay is very busy right now and unable to devote much time to the renovation. A large number of maintenance staff have quit in recent days. Work on the restroom renovation should start in August after camp. - SPLOST Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This committee is on hold until after camp. But an engineer from Atlanta who builds complex aquariums is coming next week to look at the space. - Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today is the first day of Summer Camp. It went well. SCNC is hosting 50 kids a week, which is down from previous years, but that is a nice number to work with. • Low pay scales are still an issue, but we finally got enough people hired to run the camp. • SCNC will benefit from two recent grants. The first is to UGA’s Environmental Particulate Study. They will use SCNC as the site for their air quality research in Athens. The second grant is to the Coastal Biology and Ecology Education Group which will furnish 6 virtual reality headsets for SCNC kids to learn about real places in Georgia. • The department is trying to hire a new park assistant (replacement position) and there are currently two applicants. • New trailhead scout project is done. • Kate has reported an unusual insect-related event is occurring on the grounds. More publicity at a future date. • Snake Day was a success with great volunteers who assisted some 500+ attendees. The weather was very hot but everyone seemed to have a good time. Wes and a photographer produced some amazing images of the animals.

✓	Any Additional Old or New Business
	Motion to adjourn meeting was made and approved by a majority vote at 7:05pm.

✓	Next Meeting	Date
	Executive Committee - Tuesday (10a)	June 28
	Board of Directors – Tuesday (5:30p)	July 5

✓	Important Upcoming Dates	Date
	Board Election results	July 5
	Read TD Ameritrade Statement into minutes	July 5
	Board Retreat	Aug. 13
	Annual Membership Meeting	Sept. 25
	Partnership Agreement renews	Mar. 26, 2026

✓	Action Steps	Board Members
	<p><u>Playscape Upkeep Sign Up:</u> (sign up for 3 to 4 times per year)</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S7A1a2OkBoEDU_S8sNQ_9Cv6Y_gsErQPdXLYt21mlyk/edit#gid=0</p> <p><u>Enter Volunteer Hours Monthly and Events Sign Up:</u></p> <p>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wH8L18RkKbKDIht0Cp3StmGm2R5xCgz2Tx4EMPkL5pk/edit#gid=640572208</p>	