

**Minutes of the  
American Birding Association Annual Member Meeting  
Friday, November 11, 2022**

Harlingen Convention Center

Harlingen, Texas

The annual meeting of the members of the American Birding Association (ABA) was held at 6:00 PM on Friday, November 11, 2022 at the Harlingen Convention Center in Harlingen, Texas during the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. Nineteen people were in attendance, both members and non-members. Of the total in attendance, 10 were identified as ABA members who had not returned a proxy to ABA and who were therefore eligible to vote at this meeting.

In attendance from the Board of Directors were Julie Davis (Chair), Willie Hendrickson, Jordan Roderick, Magill Weber, Arnella Trent, Sara Beesley, Karyl Gabriel, Neil Hayward, and Judy Pollock.

In attendance from the ABA Staff were John Lowry, Nate Swick, and Nikki Belmonte.

Others in attendance included Corporate Secretary and board nominee Chris Sloan, board nominees David Bates and David Bell, Carol Hendrickson, Judy Pollock's husband, and three other ABA members whose names were not recorded.

### **Introductions**

Board Chair Julie Davis introduced the board and staff who were present. Executive Director Nikki Belmonte gave a short overview of recent work by the ABA board and staff, including the launch of ABA Community, two successful recent Young Birder camps, and recent ABA travel programs. Next year's ABA travel will include a more diverse mix of both international and domestic programs. She noted that *Birding* magazine is now completely searchable online. She also reported that Steve Sebastian joined the staff to assist in development and fundraising.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Julie Davis then began the official business of the meeting, announcing that 142 members were present at the meeting by proxy in addition to the ten who were present in person. Thus, a quorum was present.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from last year's annual meeting on December 9, 2021. A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes, which was

seconded and passed unanimously by all who voted, followed by a motion and second to approve the minutes, which also passed unanimously.

### **Election of Directors**

Chair Julie Davis then moved on to the next order of business, which was the approval of this year's slate of board nominees. In August 2022, the board of directors nominated Julie Davis, Arnella Trent, and Magill Weber each for a second three year term. The board of directors further nominated Chris Sloan, David Bates, and David Bell to join the board as new members for full three year initial terms. More information about each board nominee was available at [www.aba.org/proxy22](http://www.aba.org/proxy22). A motion was made to approve the entire board slate, which motion was seconded. One member who submitted a proxy voted against the entire board slate; otherwise, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Amended and Restated Bylaws**

The final order of business was consideration of the proposed amended & restated bylaws of the ABA, which had been approved unanimously by the board of directors and recommended to the members for their approval. Detailed information concerning the proposed bylaws was available to all members at [www.aba.org/proxy22](http://www.aba.org/proxy22). Chair Davis asked if anyone present at the meeting would like an explanation of the changes; no one did. A motion was made to approve the amended & restated bylaws, which motion was promptly seconded. Chair Davis asked if there was any discussion; there was none. Accordingly, the proposal went to a vote. The proposal passed overwhelmingly, with 18 members voting against the proposal by proxy and all others voting in favor.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chair Davis thanked everyone for attending. There being no further discussion or questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.