



The Ridges Sanctuary 86th Annual Meeting Meeting Minutes August 5, 2023

Board Members Present: Dave Zuhlke, Jeff Lutsey, Grace Rossman, Bill Wolff, Sher Rockway, Mark Martin, Jone Kiefer, Michelle Hefty, Linda Brooks, Chuck Germain, Deb Fitzgerald

Staff Members Present: Katie Krouse, Andy Gill, Anna Foster, Jackie Rath, Sam Hoffman, Tony Kiszonas, Wendy Beilfuss, Sheryl Honig, Mary Beth Anschutz, Brooke Richardson, Libby Humphries

Members Present: 85

The meeting was called to order by The Ridges Sanctuary Board President Dave Zuhlke at 5:04pm

Welcome & Introductions

Dave Zuhlke welcomed members to The Ridges Sanctuary 86th Annual Meeting. Dave highlighted that The Ridges Sanctuary is member-based and reiterated the importance of membership to the wellbeing of the organization. He thanked members, donors, and volunteers for all their support in 2022. Dave also identified the master planning process and closing of the Ridges Inn & Suites property as recent significant accomplishments. He mentioned that we should be proud of what we've done, but also excited for where the master plan envisions us going in the future. Finally, Dave recognized Linda Brooks and Sandy Miller, two outgoing board members, for their years of service to The Ridges Sanctuary.

Katie Krouse called attention to the Annual Report. The report identifies the important impact that donors, members, and volunteers have on The Ridges. Each stakeholder contributes resources that allow The Ridges to achieve its vision. Katie also mentioned the Annual Report identifies recent successes, but also focuses on how the master plan will guide future decisions and growth of the organization. Katie also thanked members, donors, and volunteers and mentioned the financial impact these stakeholders have on the organization.

Dave introduced board members and Katie introduced staff members.

Approval of August 6, 2022 Minutes

Sher Rockway made a motion to approve the August 6, 2022 meeting minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by George Cobb. The motion pass unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Ridges Sanctuary Treasurer Grace Rossman provided an overview of 2022 financials. Grace shared that the finances of The Ridges are extremely healthy and thanked donors for their generosity. She highlighted event revenue, memberships, and store sales as strong sources of revenue and complimented staff for their prudent management as it relates to expenses. Grace also noted that 2022

financial statements include a note at \$1.1M, but that loan for Ridges Inn & Suites has been paid in full in 2023!

Election of New Board Members

Board President Dave Zuhlke introduced this year's slate of board candidates: Ed Miller, Ashely Prange, Jeff Lutsey, and Mark Martin. Ed, Ashley, and Mark were nominated to serve their first 3-year term and Jeff was nominated for his second 3-year term. The slate of candidates was approved unanimously. George Cobb made a motion to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Cynthia Crock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Year In Review

Sheryl Honig, Educator

Sheryl Honig provided a presentation highlighting Ridges Sanctuary external education successes in 2022. She discussed her involvement in environmental education over the last 6 ½ years at The Ridges and outlined all the ways we've increased our impact. Initially, it was summer camp and that has evolved into being in two public school districts creating district-approved curriculum for students. Opportunities to engage with school-aged children includes Gibraltar & Sevastapol Forest Days, Eco Club, Northern Door 4k, Peninsula Preschool, and field trips. This year, 22 classrooms participated in Forest Days, that amounted to 354 students between 4k and 6th grade. Sheryl also highlighted a new GLOBE program for monitoring and comparing environmental conditions worldwide. Sheryl also shared that Eco Club participants were instrumental in recent Range Light restoration efforts that included transplanting trees and inventorying plants.

Sam Hoffman, Land Manager and Tony Kizonas, Director of Research

Sam started the presentation by announcing an exciting partnership with United States Fish & Wildlife Service that includes funding from the Coastal Program. The Dwarf Lake Iris Range Light Restoration Project is a multiyear effort to increase the width of the corridor and study the impact that has on dwarf lake iris populations, other native plant populations, and invasive species.

Tony shared a dwarf lake iris distribution map that demonstrates the important population that thrives at The Ridges Sanctuary. Research and findings from our Dwarf Lake Iris Range Light Restoration Project can be applied in other areas to support populations of this threatened species. Tony also mentioned the importance of our HOB0 monitors for collecting valuable data like soil temperature and moisture. He concluded by soliciting volunteers to assist with ongoing data collection efforts.

Katie also provided a quick update on the Range Light Docent program and ongoing restoration efforts at the Range Lights. The kitchen was updated to support the live-in docent program, which was very successful in its first summer. Additionally, the Lower Range Light was repainted, the roof on the oil house was replaced, and concrete work was completed around the exterior of the Upper Range Light as well as a new concrete slab for the privy.

Brooke Richardson and Libby Humphries, Seasonal Naturalists

Brooke shared that she very much enjoyed her overall experience with The Ridges this summer. She worked primarily assisting the 7-11 year old summer camp participants as well as assisted at the front desk. Brooke completed a wildlife empathy survey and produced an infographic based on the results of the survey. She thanked members for their participation.

Libby enjoyed exploring and identifying pollinators at The Ridges, with particular attention to bees. She inventoried species around the Nature Center and on Ridges property, documenting over 22 species. Included in her findings was *Bombus Terricola*, the yellow banded bumble bee, which is a species of concern due to its declining population trends.

Other Business

Ridges Sanctuary member and volunteer Maureen McGrath thanked the organization for what she sees as an overwhelming feeling of energy and excitement from staff. She is thankful we paid off our debt and have made a significant investment in youth staff, who she credits much of our recent success to.

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Zuhlke at 6:23pm