

85th Annual Meeting of The Ridges Sanctuary
August 6, 2022

Board Members Present: David Zuhlke – President, Jeff Lutsey – Vice President, Sandy Miller – Secretary, Grace Rossman – Treasurer, Linda Brooks, Cynthia Crock, Michelle Hefty, and Bill Wolff

Staff Members Present: Andy Gill, Katie Krouse, Anna Foster, MaryBeth Anschutz, Jeanne Farrell, Tony Kiszonas, Sam Hoffman, Jane Morse, Jackie Rath, Linda Sandusky, and Lauri Smith

Interns Present: Ben Epley, Anna Gossard, Sydney Rushing

Members Present: 65

Call to Order and Introduction of Board Members and Staff – Dave Zuhlke and Andy Gill

The Ridges Sanctuary 2022 Annual Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:00 pm when Dave welcomed all members to the 85th Annual Meeting. Dave spoke about Membership Benefits. He thanked the numerous volunteer groups for the hundreds of hours they've logged (worth thousands of dollars) and acknowledged their importance to The Ridges. He also thanked the staff members, board and committee members. This year the board had some major decisions to make in a short amount of time (purchase of Ridges Inn).

Dave introduced the Board Members, and Andy introduced the Staff and Summer Interns.

Andy thanked and acknowledged staff for the work they completed during the year. He also thanked the board on behalf of the staff for their leadership.

Approval of August 7, 2021 Minutes

Cynthia Crock made a motion to approve the August 7, 2021 meeting minutes as distributed. Cindy Wolter seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Dave thanked outgoing Board member Cynthia Crock for her work in Development and Fundraising, including the Annual Appeal, and her great connection with donors and telling the story of The Ridges. Dave also thanked Larry Crock for being an integral part of the bench making crew.

Treasurer's Report

Grace presented the 2021 audited financials, indicating it was a very good year, especially considering it was during COVID. The budget was prepared in late 2020 not knowing what would happen, but people connected with The Ridges and used the trails for wellness and mental health. She compared the Financial Statement from end of 2020 to end of 2021, and reported that Endowment contributions did well. Income was over budget while expenses were under budget.

Election of New Board Members

Dave introduced this year's Board Nominees: Debra Fitzgerald, Chuck Germain, Sher Rockway, Bill Wolff and Dave Zuhlke. With no nominations from the floor, Susan Crawford made a motion to close the

nominations, Beverly Conroy seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor. The nominees were voted on separately and each was elected with all in favor. Dave welcomed the new Board members.

Year in Review – New Ridges Staff Members, Interns and Andy

Andy introduced Sam Hoffman and Summer Interns, and each gave a review of what they've done/are working on.

Sam Hoffman, Land Manager – Gave background on his education. He updated the group about the progress of the Range Light Boardwalk which is about 80 ft from completion. He spoke of the plant inventory recently started on Ridges properties and that the results will be compared to an inventory done 40 years ago. The plant inventory and the continuing Citizen Science projects are being done with the help of many volunteers.

Sydney Rushing – Gave background about her education in ecology, how it interacts with design and sustainability and her interest in the Master Planning process. She worked with summer camp programs, guided hikes and helped out at the front desk.

Anna Gossard – Gave background of her education. She assisted with summer camp, guided hikes, front desk, and helped out where needed. She was introduced to The Ridges by her Grandparents and sister, Jackie, who also interned at The Ridges in the past. She will continue her education in Conservation and Restoration.

Andy – Shared that the amount of change made recently is remarkable, and that The Ridges is a special place where he is honored to work with a great staff. He reported the recent purchase of the Ridges Inn property is a wonderful opportunity since Hidden Brook runs through it, current Ridges property surrounds it, and there is so much potential for this property. He spoke briefly about the Master Plan initiative and work being done with the Design team, SmithGroup. The Ridges is excited about doing things right, and we want to hear from members, volunteers, etc to know what we should do more of and less of. Andy asked for members to give input and stay engaged in the Master Plan process. SmithGroup will help The Ridges grow as an organization while staying true to our mission. Andy introduced Brian from Pros Consulting, as well as Greg and Jessica from SmithGroup. They discussed a few of the observations made and asked that members continue to give feedback to the Ridges staff, board members and SmithGroup. Andy also acknowledged the recent loss of members Francha Barnard, Bob Brogan and Carl Scholz. Events coming up are Monarch Madness at the end of August and the Boardwalk dedication on Labor Day weekend.

Adjournment

Dave adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm with thanks to everyone.