

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting, April 3, 2018

Host – Ian and Angela Turner.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt, Linda Fisher

Absent: Dave McKenzie

1. Call to Order: 6:40 pm
2. Review of Board Minutes from March 6, 2018. Noted that spelling of Hugh Armstrong's name be corrected on page 1 under Board Members Present by adding an "r". Moved that the GN Board Minutes be Adopted. **CARRIED**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Updating Blue GN Binder at the Nature Centre.** Eileen will check on the contents of the binder for current copies of bylaws, year-end financial statements, and AGM reports. It was decided that no monthly Chronicle would be included. Once General Meeting monthly Minutes are approved and posted, Betty will place a copy of these minutes in the binder.
 - b. **Bird Count Brooks and Milk River:** Hugh noted that Ann Carter, President of the Edmonton Nature Club, asked if GN would like to work with them and take an organizational role in the Brooks and Milk River Bird Count either this year or next. The Board discussed the request.
Milt Spitzer and Phil Horch are away at this time. The B.T. Committee will meet in 2 weeks. Hugh will contact the Edmonton Nature Club to inform them that GN would not be prepared to assist with the Brooks or Milk River Bird count this year.
Moved that the question be turned over to the Birding Trails Committee to reach a decision on whether GN would eventually assist in the organization of these two bird counts. **CARRIED.**
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Earth Day activities for April 21:** There will be no clean up in the Briar Run area this year due to future development there.
A GN table will be set up at the Parks Shop with displays such as banner, brochures, B.T. Guides etc.
Hugh will check with John and register with him for GN clean up with the city.
 - b. **GN Website Update re. Google Analytics:** Paul Thibault is looking into this matter.
 - c. **Director Appointments to be confirmed:**
 - 1) Past President: Dave McKenzie automatically fills this position. An appointment is not needed.
 - 2) Appoint Directors-at-Large: Moved that Ian Turner, Angela Turner, and Linda Fisher be appointed Directors-at-large. **CARRIED.**
 - 3) Confirm Committees' Chairs and Volunteers: Moved that all Committee Chairs be appointed by the Board **CARRIED** (All Committee Chairs will be notified to call Committee meetings).
The Committees and corresponding Chairs are:
MHIP Operations Committee/MHIP- John Slater
Issues Committee- John Slater
Indoor Committee- Linda Fisher
Fundraising Committee- Hugh Armstrong
Field Trips Committee- John Slater
Communication Committee- Angela Turner
Budget Committee- Paul Thibault
Governance Committee- Paul Thibault
 - 4) Confirm Chairs:
Birding Trails- Phil Horch
Wildflower Brochure- John Slater/ Martha Munz Gue
Butterflies, Dragonflies & More- Dave McKenzie
Bird Tales – Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault
Carol Porter Bluebird Trail – Milt Spitzer
GN/City Parks Dept. - Hugh Armstrong
 - 5) Confirm Casino Manager: Dave McKenzie is reappointed as Casino Manager.
 - 6) Select/Confirm External Organization Representatives:
 - Nature Alberta- Ian and Angela Turner are confirmed as rep.
 - SEAWA- Is Martha confirmed as rep?
 - UERAB- Dave McKenzie as GN rep. for this organization
5. Reports:

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen noted there is a separate account now for the Birding Trails Publication Fund of \$353.00. She reported the GN 'Club' Balance as at March 31, 2018 showed total assets at \$20,919.69. Eileen noted that Ian Wallace and Angela Turner did an excellent and detailed audit of the GN Treasurer's books and accounts for 2017.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen said that 4 more new memberships were sold recently, bringing the total new memberships to approximately 88.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen noted there is no new correspondence.
 - d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** John Slater sent the following written report.
 - 1) Many thanks to Corlaine and staff as well as volunteers for the very successful Easter programs March 19 to April 2. (Hugh noted about 3,500 people attended the Easter Festivities from Good Friday to Easter Monday).
 - 2) I have emailed Corlaine asking her to provide revised MHIP Budget 2018.
 - 3) Next committee meeting planned for Monday May 7th, 2018 (revised date from April 30th).
 - 4) Bob Townsend, Elaine Spitzer and Anne Bernhardt offered to remain on the committee.
 - 5) Still searching for one new committee member. Any suggestion?
 - 6) The MHIP Term-of-Reference (TOR) and the Chief Interpreter's Job Description will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.
 - 7) Next MHIP events at PPP include: Seedy Saturday April 14; Earth Day Geocache Cache in Trash Out Sunday April 22; Crocuses in the Glen Sunday May 13; and Spring Bird & Wildflower Counts May 27.
 - e. **Issues Committee Report:** John sent the following written report.
 - 1) EcoTrust Gathering in Calgary March 8 to 10 was attended by Martha and David Gue (due to Tina being sick). Martha to prepare a report. (See April Chronicle)
 - 2) World Water Week: Week-long event held at the MH Public Library March 19 to 24 was very successful. Martha has prepared a report. (See April Chronicle)
 - 3) Hugh and John met with Doug Knowles Parks Dept. on March 21 to discuss City/GN projects 2018: GN to participate in City Annual Cleanup, Strathcona Island & Lion's Park, April 21; continue tree-wrapping where necessary; and continue monitoring baby's breath. Interpreting "bat house" program and Pollinator Garden will be coordinated through MHIP. (Note change in cleanup location on April 21 to Police Point Park rather than Strathcona Island & Lion's Park).
 - 4) Martha plans to attend the next Board meeting May 1st to explain the process for MDP "Kitchen Table Conversation".
 - 5) Thanks to Anne, Martha, Dwayne and Rob, the Wildflower Brochure is getting wide distribution and high commendations. Over 3000 of the 5000 brochures have been distributed. Many people have mentioned that they would like to have a similar brochure suitable for novice and general public to identify birds. Perhaps the Birding Committee might consider producing such a brochure and/or Website.
 - 6) SEAWA Riparian Restoration of Seven Persons Creek: Work parties, special events and Neighbourhood Walks yet to be arranged. Volunteers are still encouraged to participate.
 - 7) Proposed Brier Run Development Area Structure Plan: Meet with City at the family Leisure Centre Wednesday April 18 at 11 am to discuss plan.
 Aside: Hugh noted at the Board meeting that Doug Knowles would be going to Lethbridge this week to obtain insects to battle Leafy Spurge in Medicine Hat. John has marked the Leafy Spurge areas. Thank you John.
 - f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher noted that Todd Sharp will not be speaking at the April GM. She will contact Randy Taves. The Board agreed that 45 to 60 minutes was a suitable length of time for Indoor Speaker presentations, with some questions after.
 - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted there is nothing to report.
 - h. **Field Trip Update:** written report by John
 - 1) Ben Velner's Annual Birding Trip to Manyberries is postponed to Saturday April 7th.
 - 2) Postponing "Search for Crocuses" in East Glen Nature Park until Wednesday morning 10:30 am, April 11th. Contact John Slater
 - 3) Neighbourhood Walk "Three Coulees – Marlborough, Kin and Ajax" changed to Wednesday April 25th, 10:30 am; contact John Slater.
 - 4) Neighbourhood Walk "Spring Wildflowers, Butterflying and Airshed" Saturday, April 28, 10:30 am. Contact Martha Munz Gue, David Gue, or David McKenzie.
 - 5) Neighbourhood Walk "Saratoga Park and Seven persons Creek" Wednesday May 2, 10:30 am; contact John Slater
 - 6) Neighbourhood Walk "NECH Ponds and Trail". May 9, 10:30 am. Contact Elaine Spitzer.
 - 7) Phil Horch led Annual Birding Sauder's & Murray Reservoirs Trail#2; Saturday May 5. TBD.
 - 8) Milt Spitzer led Birding to Taber Trail # 14; Saturday May 12 (International Migratory Birding Day) TBD.
- Additional Updates and Events:**
- 9) SEAWA Forum Friday April 6, 8 am – 4 pm at MH College. Field trip 1:15 – 4 pm Cypress Hills Interpretive Centre.

10) Mixed Grass Forum . April 12, MH College, 8 am- 4 pm. Register by April 6.

- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela. Nothing to report at this time.
 - j. **Birding Trails Project Update:** Hugh reported that Rob Gardner distributed the Birding Trails Guide in Southern Alberta. Over 80 of these B.T. Guides were distributed in Arizona.
Hugh noted there have been many "hits" on the website as well.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee and Paul. The group met March 8 with staff from South Country/ Sunnyside. The program is scheduled to start April 12 at that location.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela noted they will attend the March 24th meeting by teleconference. Angela reported that Nature Kids is in need of volunteers for this program for 4 to 12 years old and their families.
 - m. **Webcam Update:** Hugh reported the webcam was shut down at the end of March. Paul will work on upgrades over the summer. If the webcam did go to the Birds of Prey the question arose over who would be responsible for looking after it? Hugh noted half the Heron population appears to be back at this time.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Audio Visual at Meetings:** The Board briefly discussed audio visuals at meetings.
 - b. **Binder for New Members:** Hugh will give a GN Binder to Linda Fisher.(Linda noted she will be away for the May 22 General Meeting).
 - c. **Field Trip Remuneration to Drivers:** Eileen will put an article in the upcoming Chronicle .The cost of each specific trip could be put into emails sent to members, along with other trip information.
 - d. **Next Board Meeting:** Changed to 6:30 pm Tuesday May 1, 2018 at Anne's house 507 3 St. NW
 - e. **Adjournment:** 9:07 pm
 - f. **Refreshments**