

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of Board Meeting December 4, 2018  
Host – Hugh and Dee Armstrong.

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

1. Call to Order: 4:10 pm.
2. Review of GN Board Minutes from November 6, 2018. Angela noted that David Larson's name, listed under Item 5.g. as Indoor Speaker in February, is written as "Karson" rather than "Larson". Minutes were then Adopted. **CARRIED**
3. Additions to Agenda:
  - a. **Invasive Species Workshop:** Marty Drut reported at the last GM that this workshop will be held on the first Saturday in May. Gerry Ehler and Marty will be setting this up. (See 5.e. #10 below).
  - b. **Nature Canada Protected Places Declaration:** The Board read and discussed the Declaration, and does support it. However, the Board did not proceed with signing at this time.
  - c. **Policies & Procedures:** The Board discussed what amount in compensation is considered appropriate for an unaffiliated speaker. The need to clarify expectations with the speaker before the actual presentation was mentioned. Moved to approve the submitted Policy & Procedure on Indoor Speakers. **CARRIED.**
  - d. **Lawsuits and Legal Advice:** Hugh will put a request for members' input in the Chronicle regarding the name of a lawyer who would offer legal services occasionally on behalf of Grasslands Naturalists, possibly without taking a fee i.e. pro bono. The Board is to consider this.  
Moved to approve the submitted Policy & Procedure on Lawsuits and Legal Advice **CARRIED.** The Board will continue to search for a Legal Advisor.
  - e. **Contracts and Agreements:** The Board will wait to hear comments from MHIP.
  - f. **Personal Privacy P&P:** Eileen will email a Membership Form to Ian and Angela who will work on redrafting a page to show informed consent by members. This will be ready for viewing in the December Chronicle. Thank you Ian and Angela.
4. Action Items:
  - a. **Lifetime Membership Nominations:** Hugh will discuss nomination procedure in the Chronicle President's Report.
  - b. **Bird Count** December 16<sup>th</sup>: Contact Marty Drut for designated areas
  - c. **GN Potluck** December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.
5. Reports:
  - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,395.66 as of November 30, 2018 and the Chequing Account balance is \$4,394.70 on November 30. The Casino Account stands at \$6,619.17 for the same date.
  - b. **Membership:** Eileen said there is no report at this time.
  - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported there was some correspondence on AB Casino advisor to be turned over to Dave McKenzie.
  - d. **MHIP/ Operations Committee:** John Slater sent the following report:
    1. Previous committee meeting held Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Centre.
    2. Renovation of the Nature Centre nearing completion.
    3. Construction of the View Point completed. Placement of COOP signage and ceremony likely in the spring. Please check with Hugh and Corlaine.
    4. MHIP Budget 2019 approved.
    5. Draft of Chief Interpreter's Job Description reviewed. Some revisions needed.
    6. Update of MHIP Terms of Reference reviewed. Some revisions needed.
    7. Propose P&P covering Substance in the Workplace to be drafted and submitted to the Governance Committee.
    8. Handicap Parking (at least 2 stalls) in PPP close to the Nature Centre will be selected by the Parks Dept.
    9. Provision of Chairs and A/V equipment to be investigated by the Parks Dept.
    10. Detailed Financial Statements of expenses of money from grants for the Renovations of the Nature Centre and construction of the View Point have been requested from the City/Parks Dept.
    11. The Lions Christmas Hayride on Sunday was a great success and enjoyed by many families. Thanks to the many volunteers who made the event possible.  
More Upcoming GN MH Interpretive Programs: The Annual Christmas Bird Count during the day on Sunday Dec 16<sup>th</sup> followed by Potluck Supper at the Nature Centre starting at 5:30 pm. Check the GN's monthly newsletter, The Sagebrush Chronicle, for further details. Volunteers always appreciated.
  - e. **Issues Committee:** Written report submitted by John
    1. Previous committee meeting held Monday November 5<sup>th</sup> at Martha's House.
    2. Committee Budget 2019: \$1600=\$800 for Conference and Miscellaneous Expenses plus \$800 for reprint of 2000 Wildflower Brochures.

3. Marty would like to expand the report for the Riparian Health Assessment project by including comments and pictures and graphics. He plans to talk with Cathy Linowski at the MH College about getting a student to help complete the task.
  4. Martha plans to enquire with Robert Sissons, City Planning Dept., when the next public open house will be held, and ask if GN can meet separately to provide further input to the revision of the City's MDP.
  5. Martha to check with SEAWA, MH Public Library, College Library and Council of Canadians about meeting to cosponsor the World Water Day/Week in March 2019.
  6. Joint GN and City Parks Dept. Project: A survey report was written and submitted to the City Parks Dept. concerning the beaver activities and invasive plants along the south side of the river. We are waiting to meet with the City to discuss the results, and plan for next year.
  7. A summary report of the Shoreline Cleanup in Ranchlands Environmental Reserve was completed and submitted to the City Parks Dept. We are waiting to meet with the City to discuss the removal of the very large items found there, and the future protection of the reserve.
  8. Butterfly Project: Dave McKenzie is coordinating with Dwayne Meyers the expansion of the database and website to include pictures of the butterflies.
  9. Storm Water Ponds: Following the presentations by Randy Taves and Scott Richter at the last General Meeting on October 23, a walk was conducted the next morning around the NECH Pond to assess the change due to cutting some brush and the plans to include a wheelchair accessible ramp and the viewpoint as well as pond side platform. A viewing of the other Storm Water Ponds in the City Southland area is planned; likely in the spring.
  10. Invasive Plant Species: A public workshop as educational awareness has been proposed to address the problem of invasive weeds in alleyways, streets/boulevards and vacant lots. Further discussion is underway to see if a Workshop could be arranged for early spring. (See 3a above).
- f. **Indoor Speakers:** Linda Fisher reported that Lorne Fitch will be the January 2019 speaker
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted there is currently nothing to report.
- h. **Field Trip Committee Report:** Written by John.
1. 25 Neighbourhood Walks in 2018. Generally well attended and enjoyed by the participants. Due to cold weather, Neighbourhood Walks cancelled. We plan to resume our Neighbourhood Walks in March or April.
  2. We plan to enjoy X-Country Skiing or Snowshoeing in Police Point Park and/or Elkwater when conditions are suitable, Let John know if you are interested and would like to receive an email notice.
  3. Six Birding Field Trips conducted out of town. Many thanks to Milt, Phil and Ben for leading these events which were enjoyed by the participants.
  4. Nominal Budget 2019: \$25.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner reported the Committee will meet to discuss 1) possible Website renovations and 2) if the need exists for a Banner to explain the mission of Grasslands Naturalists Society. After discussing the topic with Corlaine, Angela reported that space at the Nature Centre is too limited for a monitor or smart board. Hugh noted that the new Nature Centre sign will include the Grasslands Naturalists name.  
Moved that Grasslands Naturalists register **GN.org** as a Domain Name. **CARRIED**  
Angela asked if the cost of registration and annual fee would be part of the Communications Committee budget.
- j. **Birding Trails Update:** Hugh reported that Phil Horch is in the process of developing a presentation to Canadian Badlands for March or April 2019, regarding signage on trails shown in the "Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta" Guide.
- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee and Paul that the project is on hold at the moment although South Country Sunnyside/Sunnyview is still utilizing the Bird Tales program.  
The Bird Tales ad hoc Committee will hold a meeting next week to decide on a start- up date.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported they would be attending the December 8<sup>th</sup> NA meeting by teleconference.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported changes could be made once something is done to improve reception
6. Other Business:
- a. **Methanex Community Advisory Panel:** As 1 of the 9 member CAP, Ian reported 1) there will be a meeting Thursday with a short presentation about Grasslands Naturalists.  
2) Ian will check with John on Issues Committee to get some ideas to be brought up at the Methanex Round Table discussion. Another suggestion was to talk to Marty about the Annual Bird Count. Shoreline cleanup, tree wrapping, and invasive species were also suggested topics for Ian to bring up at the Round Table discussion.
  - b. **GN History box sorting:** Eileen Cowtan and Linda Fisher have volunteered to go through the GN History boxes in the Sea-Can Container at Police Point Park. They agreed that two people should be adequate for the job.
  - c. **New Board Members needed:** Hugh will remind members in the December Chronicle President's Report
  - d. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> at Eileen's house. Co-sponsored by Linda Fisher.
  - e. **Adjournment:** 5:40 pm
  - f. **Refreshments**