

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting February 5, 2019
Hosted by Anne Bernhardt.

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

1. Call to Order: 1:40 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from January 8, 2019.
3. Additions to the Agenda:
 - a. **Pre-workshop meeting Nature Centre March 26:** Gerry Ehler has this meeting organized and has confirmed speakers. He would like GN to have a table at the event.
 - b. **Funding for Workshop lunch May 4:** Hugh reported the MH Horticultural Society is providing funds for snacks and refreshments for coffee break. A request from Methanex Community Advisory Panel (CAP) has been sent in for \$2,800 which could be put toward the cost of Workshop advertising and brochures. Hugh will send Ian a copy of the application form. (See item 5.g. below)
Ian reported there will be a CAP meeting in February.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Lifetime Membership Nominations:** John Slater was mentioned in January.
 - b. **Kiwanis Family day Celebration:** Monday February 18, 11 am to 4 pm. Please sign up with Marty to volunteer.
 - c. **World Water Day/Week:** Theme "Leaving No One Behind". GN will have an unmanned display table set up at the Public Library. Angela will contact Martha to set up a table.
 - d. **IP Budget and Paul's discussion points to Operations Committee:** Hugh reported that Paul will not be developing a template for the Interpretive Program Budget to be given to the IP Operations Committee Chair, as moved in Jan. 8 Board Minutes Item 4.c.
Hugh said there will be a meeting of the Operations Committee on February 25 when the topic will be addressed.
 - e. **Website Development:** Hugh confirmed that Casino funds will cover promotional activity including website development and maintenance. AGLC classes on allowable use of gaming proceeds for non-profit groups will be offered on Feb. 12 and March 20th in Medicine Hat.
Anne reported a CBC Calgary Radio survey which discussed restrictions on the use of Casino funds for non-profit groups. She will let the Board know more about results of the survey.
 - f. **AGM Location:** Anne said the AGM will be held at the Public Library on March 26, likely in the Honor Currie Room. The Nature Centre is unavailable because of upcoming Easter activities.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,413.66 as of February 5, 2019 and the Chequing Account balance is \$5,365.89 on February 5, 2019. The Casino Account stands at \$4,469.19 as of February 4, 2019.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen reported she has received approximately 30 membership slips to this point.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen noted that no correspondence was received.
 - d. **MHIP/Operations Committee:** The next meeting of the Operations Committee will be February 25, 2019 at the Nature Centre.
 - e. **Issues Committee:** Martha reported:
 1. A date for the next committee meeting has not been set yet because of individual member's varying schedules. Martha has sent out pertinent information to Issues Committee members.
 2. (The Waterton Wildflower Festival will be held June 13-18, 2019).
Martha reported the Waterton Wildflower Weekend takes place September 19 to 22nd, 2019. Tickets will be available in August. This weekend was set up to promote learning about the animals living in the Rocky Mountains and the prairies.
 - f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher reported that she will contact February's speaker, Dr. David Larson, regarding the amount requested for the upcoming presentation. Eileen will write a thankyou card with the cheque.
The March speaker, Rick Larson, will let Anne Bernhardt know what equipment he requires for his presentation on Sea Wolves of British Columbia.
Anne will ask if the MHP Library Theatre is available for the AGM and will let Linda know.
Linda reported she will inquire if Rick is a published author and will inform Anne so the Library is made aware of this.
Rob Gardner will obtain more Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta Guide books for Linda to present to future speakers.
Linda is currently seeking a speaker for April, while May's presenter is Sandi Robertson, speaking on Ord's Kangaroo Rat.

- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported the application to Methanex for \$2800. has been completed (see item 3.b.above)
Anne inquired when the Co-Op Community Spaces sign will be erected. Hugh noted the City wants to hold a celebration, possibly in April, after work at the Nature Centre is finished and the area is tidied up.
Ian asked about the possibility of relocating the PP Park Buffalo statue closer to the Nature Centre for more viewing opportunities. Hugh will discuss this with Corlaine before talking to City Parks Dept.
 - h. **Field Trip Committee:** written report by John
 - 1) If the snow conditions continue then enjoy cross-country skiing in Police Point Park as well as Elkwater.
 - 2) The next Field Trip event is Ben Verner's Birding Trip to Manyberries on Saturday march 30th.
 - 3) Neighbourhood Walks, due to current weather and snow pack, are not likely to start until April.
 - i. **Communications Committee:** Angela reported the January 11th meeting to discuss GN website updates was canceled since Paul was ill. The Committee will try to meet this Thursday, February 7th. If Paul isn't able to attend another date will be set.
 - j. **Birding Trails:** Hugh reported that Phil Horch needs more Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta Guide books for several locations such as Lethbridge, Calgary, Milk River and more.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported, for Paul and Dee that the Bird Tales group plans to set the program in motion at South Country Village once the weather improves.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported that Nature Alberta Board sets the price each year for insurance coverage. NA could not provide the coverage GN requires since this would also need to include the Interpretive Program.
 - m. **Web Cam Update:** There is nothing to report at this time, Hugh said.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Birds of Prey Coaldale:** Hugh reported that this raptor rescue and conservation organization lost many birds to West Nile Virus. Birds of Prey are asking Albertans to donate to the Rescue Centre so it can continue rehabilitating raptors. Hugh will check to see if B. of P. is a charity, and will look also look into placing an article in the February Sagebrush Chronicle, as suggested by Anne Bernhardt.
 - b. **Legal Advisor:** Board members will keep working on securing a lawyer. Linda Fisher asked if Nature Alberta has a lawyer.
 - c. **Ecotrust Conference April 4 and 5:** Martha is hopeful that two GN members, Gerry Ehlert and Tina Regehr, may consider attending this conference in Calgary. Martha has attended various times in the past few years.
 - d. **UERAB position available:** There are presently 2 positions open.
 - e. **Board and Committee Members:** Hugh noted this will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.
 - f. **Next Board Meeting** 1:30 pm. Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at Ian and Angela's house.
 - g. **Adjournment** 3:45 pm
 - h. **Refreshments**