

SOCIETY OF GRASSLAND NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting June 5, 2018
Host – Hugh and Dee Armstrong.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Linda Fisher, Anne Bernhardt.

Absent: Ian and Angela Turner

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm
2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from May 1, 2018. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Recent Bird and Wildflower Count:** Marty Drut will post results online
 - b. **Sunshine Festival launches Environment Week:** World Environment Day is celebrated June 5. Good weather is expected.
 - c. **Nature Alberta** is looking for ways to raise funds: Discussion. Leave for next meeting when Angela is back.
 - d. **Link to SEAWA from our GN website:** This idea was discussed at length. **Moved that we put a link on the Grasslands Naturalists Website, and mention the SEAWA newsletter link in the Sagebrush Chronicle. CARRIED**
 - e. **Canadian Anti-Spam Law (CASL):** Hugh explained CASL, and the topic was discussed briefly. Paul Thibault is looking into a privacy policy as it would apply to GN.
 - f. **Archiving with the City of Medicine Hat:** Hugh noted that GN records would not be put into the City archives because of regulations regarding City rights to the records.
 - g. **Audio Visual Equipment at the Nature Centre:** Hugh reported that there may be more funds available for such equipment. A portable mic and speaker would be advantageous at the Centre for meetings and other events.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Pot luck on June 26:** Marty may review recent Bird and Wildflower counts at the event. Linda Fisher will verify with Marty. Location? Linda will look at picnic tables at Echo Dale. Hugh will check tables at Strathcona. To know by June 10th.
 - b. **GN table volunteers for June Farmer's Market:** Angela has booked a GN display table for May 26, June 23 and September 15. Eileen will call Angela when Ian and Angela return from their trip after June 19. A request for 2 volunteers will be placed in the Chronicle for the June 23 Market date.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported some donations are being received for the Birding Trails Guidebook. She reported the GN "Club" balances as of May 31, 2018 are Chequing: \$3823.02 and Savings: \$16,353.88.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen reported there are 87 members on the list. 14 people have not renewed. Hugh and John suggested a 1 year complimentary GN membership could be offered to interested non-members who attend neighbourhood walks. Hugh will mention this to Corlaine, as well as at the next General Meeting.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen read a letter from a supporter and will send a thank you.
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee Report:** John Slater sent the following written report:
 1. Renovations at the Nature Centre are continuing. Work group cleaned out the back storage area so the floor will be filled and leveled (no longer steps to the back room).
 2. Martha & Corlaine organized a Coulee's Edge Wildflower Walk led by Martha last Saturday morning. Well attended by 11 members of the public of all ages. Thank you Martha.
 - e. **Issues Committee Report:** Written report submitted by John:
 1. Hugh and John did preliminary rewrapping of trees along River Road and Strathcona Island Park. Waiting for opportunity and volunteers to wrap trees in Police Point Park as well as Strathcona Island Park.
 2. John along with Natasha and Celine from SEAWA dug total of 227 Baby's Breath plants near entrance to Police Point Park.
 3. Hugh and John dug additional 165 Baby's Breath plants near entrance to Police Point Park.
 4. Martha and other committee members continuing to complete submissions for the revised MDP.

- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher continues to contact possible speakers for the upcoming General Meetings. There will be no speaker at the June pot luck event. Randy Taves from the City has indicated he would be available as a speaker at a future date.
Toby Newton, who spoke at the May 22 GM, has indicated that he would be pleased to speak again. He would be able to show the entire visual component of his presentation at a future GM. Members were fortunate to enjoy samples of honey at the last talk.
 - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh said there is nothing new to report.
 - h. **Field Trip Update:** Thanks for the following written report, John:
 1. Neighbourhood Walk tomorrow morning, June 6, in Ranchlands Environmental Reserve. Contact John Slater.
 2. This Saturday, June 9; Bird Outing to Dinosaur Prov. Park led by Milt Spitzer.
 3. Next Wednesday morning, June 13, Neighbourhood Walk at Redcliff Riverside Park. Contact John Slater.
 4. June 14 to 19; Waterton Wildflower Festival. Contact Martha Munz Gue.
 5. June 20; Neighbourhood Walk. TBD.
 - i. **Communications Committee:** Angela absent.
 - j. **Birding Trails Project Update:** Hugh noted one more meeting will be held this September to discuss the feasibility of talking to Canadian Badlands Tourism about signage on all bird trails, viewpoints near bodies of water, and pull-outs on roads.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee, Paul and other members, that the group will be going to South Country Village on June 23 or 24. Volunteers are always needed.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela are away.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Continuing Kitchen Table Discussions:** Hugh noted the myMH site photos of Medicine Hat contest. Further public discussions will be held at the Esplanade June 12 from 3:30 to 7:30 pm and at the Cultural Centre June 20 from 3:30 to 7:30 pm.
 - b. **Medicine Hat Accommodation Association:** Rob Gardner will get back to Hugh on his decision regarding the Travel Writer position suggested by the MHAA.
 - c. **World Wildlife Federation reply:** Hugh reported that he has not received a reply yet from Devika Shaw of WWF. regarding partnering on a pilot project from May to October. (See May 24, 2018 GM Minutes, Item 6.b)
 - d. **Clean up at Lion's Park:** No date has been set yet.
 - e. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at Betty's house. 770-8 St. Dunmore
 - f. **Adjournment:** 7:40 pm
 - g. **Refreshments:** Thanks to Hugh and Dee for hosting the GN end-of-year Board Meeting.