

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting, March 6, 2018

Host – Betty Rainville.

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

Absent: Dave McKenzie

1. Call to Order: 6:25 pm
2. Review of Board Minutes from February 6, 2018. Hugh noted that the Bird Tales Update under **5.k.** should be a **March 8** start, rather than March 1.
Regarding **5.g.** from February 6 Board Minutes, Hugh discussed with Dave McKenzie, the proposed EcoTrust Grant of \$7,500. for developing a Nature Website. Hugh reported that unfortunately the grant proposal does not fit the necessary criteria at this time.
Moved that GN Board Minutes be Adopted. **CARRIED**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Earth Day Activities for April 21.** Hugh reported that the City would get back to GN regarding cleanup assistance. Strathcona Park may be one possible location suggested by the City.
 - b. **Board Review/Approval of 2017 and 2018 budgets for the GN Club and MHIP.** The Board reviewed the GN Club 2017 and 2018 Budgets. **Moved that the 2017 and 2018 GN Budgets be Approved. CARRIED**
The Board then reviewed the MHIP 2017 and 2018 Budgets. MHIP will update its 2018 Budget to reflect the added revenue from the City (\$166,439. compared to \$148,000.) and the expected expenditure increase.
Moved that the 2018 MHIP Budget be Accepted as Amended. CARRIED
Moved that the 2017 and 2018 MHIP Budgets be Approved. CARRIED
 - c. **Position of Chair of MHIP Operations Committee.** John Slater has offered to take on this position. Thank you John.
Moved that John Slater be appointed Chair of MHIP Operations Committee. **CARRIED**
 - d. **Signature on Bookkeepers Employment Agreements.** The Board discussed which GN member signatures are required for Bookkeeper Employment Agreements.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **GN table at CBT Conference** March 13-15. Move table to MHP Library.
Hugh reported Lonna Hogan will supply a table for the GN Display.
Angela Turner said she will talk to Marty about the display. She will drop off the banner, brochures, rack cards, Chronicles etc. at Hugh's house. Thank you Angela.
 - b. **World Water Week** March 19-24. WW Day March 22. GN Display Table.
Hugh noted he would move the display to the Library on Monday in his truck. Martha will set it up Monday morning at the Library.
Angela will talk to Marty Drut to see what needs to be set up for Marty's Riparian Display. Angela will also call Martha regarding Water Week activities.
 - c. **AGM March 27**, Unity Lutheran Church. Anne Bernhardt reported GN will need to bring all necessary items to the Church, and take it all away after the AGM. Anne said she will get coffee from Corlaine at MHIP as well as other items. Check with Dave McKenzie to see if Marilou Montemayor (speaker) will bring her own presentation equipment.
 - d. **Easter Volunteers.** More Volunteers are needed to help with school groups the last 2 weeks of March, as well as over the Easter weekend.
 - e. **CBT Award Presentation.** Hugh reported that he will know the result of the CBT award nomination by March 8. The award presentation will be made at the CBT gala VIP dinner.
Rob Gardner will be giving a presentation at the Lodge on March 14 regarding the Birding Trails Guide.
Hugh will speak to Milt Spitzer and Rob.
Bob Frew and Phil Horch, also on the Birding Trails Guide Project, are currently out of town.
 - f. **Call for Nominations for Board Positions.** Hugh noted the Call for Nominations will have to come from the Floor at the upcoming AGM. There are 2 possible members who may be interested in the position of Director at Large.
Hugh will put a request in the upcoming Chronicle asking members to fill positions on the Board and on Committees.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the bank balance (total current assets) for the GN 'Club' as at February 28, 2018 was \$19,536.67. The total assets of the GN Casino account as at February 28, 2018 were \$15,826.61.

Eileen also presented copies of the Treasurer's Report for 2017 Year as well as copies of GN, MHIP and Casino Account Income Statements from Jan. 12017 to Dec. 31 2017, and Balance Sheets as at December 31, 2017 for the 3 aforementioned Accounts.

- b. **Membership:** Membership numbers vary at this time because of membership renewal.
- c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported there was no correspondence at this time.
- d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** Written Report from John Slater.
 - 1. Recent committee meeting held February 26. Members present offered to stay on the committee. John to resume Chair position
 - 2. At recent GN Budget meeting Feb 28, John was asked to have Corlaine revise the MHIP Budget now that GN has signed the Agreement.
 - 3. MHIP Terms of Reference dated October 18, 2012 as well as Chief Interpreter's Job Description dated April 1994 and revised April 2006 to be reviewed and if necessary updated.
 - 4. Last year 2017, the MHIP organized 49 public events and activities (list to be posted in GN Website for AGM).
 - 5. A tentative schedule of events for 2018 has been drafted. The recent Family Literacy StoryWalk and Kiwanis Family Day event were great successes. Next special StoryWalk is planned for this coming Sunday March 11th, opening at 2 pm.
 - 6. Next big events are Chicks and Bunnies March 19 to 29, and Easter Weekend March 30 to April 2nd. Volunteers needed. Many other events planned throughout the year.
- e. **Issues Committee Report:** Written Report from John Slater.
 - 1. Following the committee meeting January 26th, Martha, Tina, Rob and John have been discussing the way ahead for addressing the City's request for GN input to the revision of the City's Municipal Development Plan. On February 14th, following the Community Network Webinar "Climate Change Survey" hosted at the Public Library, a brief informal meeting was held with Robert Sissons, City Planning Department, and we attended the Municipal Development Committee meeting on Feb 14th. Martha then hosted a meeting today March 6th with John & Tina in attendance to continue discussions and formulate a plan for way ahead. It was suggested that we would like to attend the next GN Board meeting April 3rd to explain the proposed way head, and then meet again with the Board on the following meeting May 1st, to demonstrate how the City website mymh.ca "Kitchen Table Discussions" is used to complete the City Survey input.
 - 2. The Wildflower Brochure has been printed (5000 copies). Bundles of 50 brochures (totaling 100) have been distributed to various locations: PPP Nature Centre, MH Tourist Centre, Elkwater Visitor's Centre, Nature Alberta, Ellis Bird Farm, MH College, Judith Golub and other individuals. It is planned to have a few bundles distributed with the Birding Trails Guide to specific locations. (Hugh noted that Rob Gardner would be taking brochures to Drumheller, Elkwater, Writing on Stone, and other tourist outlets along with the Birding Trail Guidebooks). (See 5.j below).
 - 3. SEAWA Project Riparian Restoration of Seven Person's Creek: GN Members encouraged to participate. Special Events and Neighbourhood Walks to be arranged; may be in conjunction with the MHIP activities and City events such as on April 21st. (See 6.c. below).
 - 4. EcoTrust 3rd Gathering in Calgary March 8 to 10: Martha and Tina registered to attend.
 - 5. Proposed Brier Run Development; City has sent an email with proposed development Area Structure Plan. Tentatively arranged meeting next week with City Planning Department to discuss the plan.
- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Dave McKenzie/Linda Fisher. Hugh will contact Dave about getting in touch with Linda.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted there is nothing new to report at this time.
- h. **Field Trip Update:** John sent a written report.
 - 1. Depending on the spring weather and snow melt, first Neighbourhood Walk planned for Wednesday March 28 to find crocuses in East Glen/Ross Glen Nature Park. Otherwise, Wednesday April 11 and/or 18th.
 - 2. Saturday March 31: Ben's Annual Birding Trip to Manyberries.
 - 3. June 15 to 18; Waterton Wildflower Trip (contact Martha)
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner asked Board members about the feasibility of putting a notice of the upcoming AGM into the MH News, as the MH Horticultural Society and the Archeological Society do. Anne Bernhardt suggested putting a poster on the doors of the Nature Centre for the March 27 AGM, as a reminder to members of the change to the Unity Church location. Betty asked about the Community Calendar in the 40 Mile County Commentator as another way of advertising GN events.
- j. **Birding Trails Project Update:** Rob Gardner will distribute a number of Birding Trail Guides now, and will distribute more later. Prime Printing is storing the boxes for GN. Rob will be distributing copies of the Wildflower Brochures to some of the same locations as the BT Guide drop-offs when there is a suitable outlet. (See 5.e.2)

- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault that a meeting will be held on March 8th with the recreation staff and Recreation Director at the Sunnyside/Sunnyview long-term care facility. The Bird Tales Ad Hoc Committee held meetings after the completion of the Meadow Ridge program and wrote a detailed "Way-ahead" report.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian Turner and Angela Turner reported that NA will be holding a meeting March 24 in Edmonton, Ian and Angela will be attending via teleconference from 9 am to 3 pm.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Paul sent a written report of the Web Cam stating that he and Corlaine agreed that "Birds of Prey" Lethbridge, would be a good candidate for a summer location for the Web Cam. The Nature Centre would not be feeding birds over the summer and therefore not attracting any to a Web Cam. Corlaine suggested that GN could request a better internet connection from the City, since MHIP is asked to provide Wi Fi to visitors.

The Board also read Paul's comments on a GN Website Update, and discussed GN Club website statistics using Google Analytics for January-February 2018. Paul mentioned these were presented at the last Birding Trails meeting. Google Addwords Express will promote a website by allowing the user to assign a monthly budget. In February Google would match any money spent over 30 days, up to \$300.00, to promote a website. Board members will look at the possibility of this aid.

6. Other Business:

- a. **General Mailing of GN Minutes** to members. Hugh reported that the emailing of General Meeting Minutes is acceptable before they are adopted at the following General Meeting. The email will indicate that the minutes have not yet been approved. This will be a way to keep members informed, and hopefully reduce the time spent on reviewing old minutes at General Meetings.
- b. **New City Contract:** The GN Contract Agreement with the City for the MHIP has been signed.
- c. **SEAWA Project** on Seven Person's Creek restoration :(See John's notes 5.e.3) Hugh noted that City Park's Department wants GN to participate in restoration of Seven Person's Creek.
The city also wants GN to be involved in tree wrapping. Bob Townsend suggested involving Scouts and Cadets to assist in the project.
- d. **Next Board Meeting** 6:30 pm Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at Ian and Angela's house.
- e. Adjournment 8:30 pm
- f. Refreshments