

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting, May 1, 2018

Host – Anne Bernhardt.

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

Guest: Martha Munz Gue

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm.
2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from April 3, 2018. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Martha Munz Gue attended tonight's meeting** to gather suggestions and ideas from Board members on the Kitchen Table Conversation Guide proposed by the city Municipal Development Plan and explained at www.mymh.city. A recorder took notes which Martha will submit to the city. She suggested submissions from other GN Kitchen Table discussions be sent in earlier than the July 31st deadline. Thank you for facilitating this discussion Martha.
A suggestion was made that Dwayne Myers send photographs to the City Planning department.
 - b. **Medicine Hat Accommodation Association** requests ideas for a Travel Writer to highlight PP Park. After discussion, it was moved that the Board contact Rob Gardner to let his name stand for position of Travel Writer for the Medicine Hat Accommodation Association. **CARRIED**
 - c. **Release of S. Saskatchewan Regional Plan:** This plan was amended effective May 31st, 2018. Hugh said he will review the plan, but it looks good at this point. It appears to involve a high level of stewardship.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Response at April 24 General meeting re. Devika Shah's** (WWF) request to work with GN: Hugh reported he has contacted Devika but has not had a reply yet.
 - b. **GN and SEAWA to invite Robert Sissons**, possibly PRAXIS and other groups to meet at the MH Public Library: Martha suggested this meeting would need to be initiated by GN . At the moment, SEAWA has only 1 volunteer with riparian restoration.
 - c. **Clean up needed at Lion's Park:** Hugh said he will check with John about this, or John will contact us.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" balance stands at \$21,228.48 as at April 30, 2018. The Casino balance is \$12,240.14 at April 30, 2018.
The Board discussed the current Policies and Procedures regarding Indoor Speaker's mileage allowance, which allows a 15 cent/km charge. This amount may need eventual revision in light of higher gas prices.
It was moved that Anne Bernhardt be reimbursed for covering the April Indoor Speaker's accommodation. **CARRIED.**
Eileen will write a cheque to Anne for the necessary amount.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen noted 21 members have not renewed. There are 87 memberships at this time.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen noted she received correspondence from Partners for the S. Saskatchewan River Basin. Linda Fisher received correspondence from April's Indoor Speaker, Dr. Gail Michener, and sent a reply and thank you in return.
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Written report submitted by John Slater.
 1. Many thanks to Corlaine and staff as well as volunteers for the very successful Easter programs March 19 to April 2, as well as Seedy Saturday April 14th.
 2. Bob Townsend, Elaine Spitzer and Anne Bernhardt offered to remain on the committee, and we are grateful for Simmone Flynn joining the committee.
 3. Next MHIP events to include: Crocuses in the East Glen Sunday May 13; and Spring Bird and Wildflower Counts May 27.
 4. Next committee meeting planned for Monday May 7th, 2018 (revised date from April 30th). Note. This will be held at the Park's Office.
 - e. **Issues Committee Report:** Written report submitted by John.
 1. Martha hosted the first of two Kitchen Table discussions last Friday morning concerning the new MDP. And she is planning to hold the second gathering Friday this week, so I am sure Martha will inform you all at the meeting tonight as to what was discussed and the suggestion of each Board member to host their own Kitchen Table Conversation on a question or topic relevant to the vision of the new MDP. Input from organizations and general public is to be submitted by 31 July.
 2. City/GN Project 2018: Wire has been requested so we can get out to wrap trees in Strathcona Island and Police Point Parks as well as repair wire on trees along River Road. Identifying locations of Invasive Weeds will commence soon. (Martha suggested involving groups such as the Skateboard Association, Scouts, Junior Forest Wardens or Air Cadets).

- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher noted that Lorne Fitch is not able to make a presentation at the May GM. Instead Toby Newton, an agronomist and livestock specialist with Medicine Hat Co-op, will speak about his urban bee keeping hobby. Since Linda will not be at the May meeting, Anne Bernhardt has offered to be a contact person and to introduce Toby at the meeting. Thank you Anne.
Martha will contact Judith Golub about speaking at the June pot luck. Judith plans to participate in a Wildflower walk in Medicine Hat the next day.
Angela Turner volunteered to obtain a list of knowledgeable speakers from the Lethbridge Nature Centre as possible presenters at future General meetings. Thanks Angela.
- g. **Field Trip Update:** John sent a written report.
1. The Neighbourhood Walk last Wednesday in East Glen Nature Park was led by Dwayne Myers and Ian Wallis with four additional GN Members. Some Crocuses were found in and over the weekend, additional Desert Alyssum and Golden Buffalo Bean were discovered.
 2. The Neighbourhood Walk last Saturday near McCoy High School was led by David Gue and Martha Munz Gue. Dave gave a very informative talk on the purpose of the Palliser Airshed equipment to measure the air quality in Medicine Hat & Redcliff Region. Daily results are available from their website www.PalliserAirshed.com Martha then took the group of 7 GN members to search for wildflowers. Moss Phlox and Reflexed Rockcress were found along the south-facing ridge overlooking the river, as well as Golden Currant and Thorny Buffaloberry at the bottom of the slope.
 3. The next Neighbourhood Walks and Birding Field Trips are as mentioned at the General Meeting as follows:
Neighbourhood Walk "Saratoga Park and Seven Persons Creek" Wednesday May 2, 10:30 am; meet at the bottom of Sholten Hill. Contact John Slater.
 4. Phil Horch led Annual Birding Sauder's & Murray Reservoirs Trail # 2; Saturday May 5. Meet 7:30 am at A & W Gershaw Drive to arrange carpooling. Finished by 2 pm.
 5. Neighbourhood Walk "NECH Ponds and Trail" May 9, 10:30 am. Meet at Co-op Liquor Store Northland Shopping Centre. Contact Elaine Spitzer.
 6. Milt Spitzer led Birding to Taber Trail # 14; Saturday May 12 (International Migratory Birding Day). Meet 7:00 am at the A & W on Gershaw Drive to arrange carpooling.
 7. Neighbourhood Walk May 16, SE Hill Trailhead at east end of 11th St SE at 10:30 am; Contact John Slater.
 8. Waterton Wildflower Festival. June 16-18. See the website. Contact Martha for more information. David Gue also explained some of the Waterton Walks to GN members this evening.
- h. **Communications Committee:** Angela reported a table for GN is booked a total of 3 Saturdays at the Farmer's Market on May 26, June and September. Two volunteers will be needed to set up the table and supervise it. This will be advertised in the Chronicle.
- i. **Birding trails Project Update:** Hugh reported that Phil is away next week, but a meeting will take place after May 10 when he returns.
- j. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Paul and Dee that there is new staff at the senior residence where they will be setting up Bird Tales. The B.T. group's eventual aim is to make the facility courtyard safe and to re-do the walk with the help of volunteers.
- k. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported the Shorebirds publication went to final printing after correcting errors that Milt and Rob had discovered.
- l. **Webcam Update:** Hugh reported the webcam is disconnected during renovations at the nature Centre. He said future meetings will be held to make the project more exciting for next year.
- 6 Other Business
- a. **Updating GN Binder** at the Nature Centre: Eileen noted new Policies and Procedures and Financial Statements from last year are now in the binder. Betty reported monthly GM Minutes are also placed in once they are approved.
 - b. **GN Website Update:** Hugh reported Paul Thibault is working on Google Analytics.
 - c. **Death of GN Member** Hans Mueller: Eileen reported that an article will be put in the May Chronicle about Hans. He was a strong supporter of the MHIP.
 - d. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm Tuesday June 5 at Hugh and Dee's house. 15 Partridge St NE
 - e. **Adjournment:** 8:45 pm
 - f. **Refreshments**

