

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting November 6, 2018
Host- Ian and Angela Turner.

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

1. Call to Order: 6:33 pm
2. Review of Adoption of GN Board Minutes from October 2, 2018. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Methanex grant available:** Ian Turner is now on the 9 member Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of Methanex. This qualifies him for a \$500.00 donation to a group of his choice. Ian will respond to Methanex after this meeting to designate upgrading audio visual equipment to the Nature Centre. He will attend the CAP meeting in December 2018.
 - b. **Website Renovation:** Angela Turner noted the website needs to be more responsive to phones. She said that Paul Thibault feels that more work and finances are needed to fix it. Paul suggests Wordpress which is a website content management system (CMS)
David Cowtan looks after the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program website.
Hugh will talk to Paul about the Communication Committee budget for Angela. He will phone in the morning.
Moved that Paul write up a tender for website development/upgrading which we can send out. **CARRIED.**
 - c. **Lifetime Membership Nominations:** Two names were suggested by a GN member. Hugh requested that the Board consider the suggestions.
The nomination needs to go to the Chronicle 60 days prior to the AGM.
 - d. **Request for Coffee Urn:** Moved that a Coffee Urn be purchased from GN funds for the Nature Centre. **CARRIED.**
Anne will purchase a new pot.
Hugh will mention at the start of the next GM about billing GN for coffee & cookies at General Meetings. He will inform Corlaine that GN will be paying for the coffee and cookies at these meetings.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Budgets in by Nov. 15th:** All Committee Chairs are to have their budgets in to Paul Thibault by this deadline please.
 - b. **Outstanding Bills:** Committees are to have outstanding bills to Eileen by the end of the year
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,387.67 as of Nov. 6th, and the Chequing Account balance is \$4457.14. The Casino Account balance stands at \$7625.42
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen noted the membership stands at 78.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen said Nature Alberta magazine was received.
 - e. **MHIP Operations Committee:** John Slater sent the following report:
 1. Meeting held yesterday afternoon 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. Retirement Party for Valerie, Thursday Nov 29th.
 5. MHIP Budget 2019 approved.
 6. Draft of Chief Interpreter's Job Description reviewed. Some revisions needed.
 7. Update of MHIP Terms of Reference reviewed. Some revisions needed.
 8. Propose P&P covering Substance in the Workplace to be drafted and submitted to the Governance Committee.
 9. Handicap Parking (at least 2 stalls) in PPP close to the Nature Centre will be selected by the Parks Dept.
 10. Provision of Chairs and A/V equipment to be investigated by the Parks Dept.
 11. 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.
 12. Upcoming GN MH Interpretive Programs: The Lions Christmas Hayride on Sunday Dec 2nd at Police Point Park, 1 to 4pm. And the Annual Christmas Bird Count during the day on Sunday Dec 16th followed by Potluck Supper at the nature Centre starting at 5:30pm. Check the GN's monthly newsletter, The Sagebrush Chronicle, for further details. Volunteers always appreciated.
 - f. **Issues Committee:** Written by John.
 1. Meeting held yesterday morning at Martha's house.

2. Committee Budget 2019: \$800 for Conference and Miscellaneous Expenses plus \$800 for reprint of 2000 Wildflower Brochures.
 3. Details of the discussions will be forthcoming in the minutes of the meeting.
- g. **Indoor Speakers:** Linda Fisher reported that Jasveen Brar will be speaking on Environmental Literacy and Passion, at the November General Meeting.
- There will be no General Meeting in December because of the Bird Count and Potluck on Dec. 16th
 - Lorne Fitch will be speaking at the January General Meeting.
 - Entomologist David Karson from Maple Creek will be speaking at the February meeting, on the demise of the wild rose due to wood-boring beetles.

Anne Bernhardt passed on several names of possible speakers who Linda could contact. Thanks Anne

- h. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted there is nothing to report at present.
- i. **Field Trip Committee Report:** Written by John.
1. 26 Neighbourhood Walks in 2018. Due to cold weather, Neighbourhood Walk tomorrow cancelled. Likely no further walks this year. 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 (Slater) know if you are interested and would like to receive an email notice.
 3. Nominal Budget 2019: \$25.
- j. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner reported she will have the Budget in to Paul. Anne Bernhardt asked about a banner that would explain the mission of Grasslands Naturalists Society. Angela said she would talk to Corlaine about this suggestion which might include a monitor or smart board at the Nature Centre.

Eileen Cowtan and Linda Fisher have volunteered to go through the **GN history boxes** in the Sea-Can Container at Police Point Park. They would likely need the help of another long term member who is aware of the history of GN.

- k. **Birding Trails Update:** Hugh reported that Phil Horch is in the process of developing a presentation to Canadian Badlands for next March or April, regarding signage on trails shown in the "Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta" Guide.
- l. **Bird Tales Update:** Nothing to report.
- m. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela Turner reported Nature Alberta is holding a meeting December 8th which they will attend by teleconference. They mentioned that NA held an executive meeting in summer to discuss combining the children's magazine, NatureWILD, with the Nature Alberta magazine for adults.
6. Other Business:
- a. **New Board Members Needed:** Hugh advised the Board to keep thinking of members who might wish to fill some available positions.
 - b. **Webinars:** Nov. 15th and Nov. 29th on Bat Landscape Use, & Sharp Tailed Grouse Leks. See October Chronicle to register online.
 - c. **Northland Storm Pond:** Hugh reported on a thank you email to Randy Taves and Scott Richter for their talk at the General Meeting on October 23rd. Included in it were useful recommendations and considerations arising from the Neighbourhood Walk around the NE Northland Storm Water Pond.
 - d. **SEAWA Forum:** Hugh and several Board members agreed that this Forum on Nov. 2nd had a good variety of topics as well as excellent speakers. Thanks to Brooklyn at SEAWA for the set up and organization. (See Hugh's comments in the November Chronicle).
 - e. **Next Board Meeting:** 4:00 pm Tuesday December 4th at Hugh and Dee's house.
 - f. **Adjournment:** 8:00 pm
 - g. **Refreshments**