

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting October 2, 2018
Host- Anne Bernhardt.

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

Absent: Eileen Cowtan

1. Call to Order: 6:36 pm
2. Review of GN Board Minutes from **September 4, 2018:**
 - a. **Regarding item number 2**, John Slater sent a brief clarification of the idea expressed here, as well as in **item 5.b. from June 5 2018 GN Board Minutes**, concerning complimentary memberships to non-members attending GN Walks/Field Trips. He noted the idea was a suggestion to encourage them to join GN. The complimentary membership would be for the remainder of the year with hopes they attend the General Meetings and pay for their 2019 membership this fall. So the suggestion of complimentary membership was for only a partial- year and not a 1- year membership.
 - b. **Regarding item 5.j.**, Hugh corrected the Birding Trail Guide placement location as "Waskesiu Lake" rather than Waskasoo Park.

Minutes were then adopted **CARRIED**

3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **MH Art Club Show** opened at the Nature Centre on September 30 at 12:30 pm. This will run until December 23, 2018. (See item 5.d.4) below).
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Vital Conversations Committee & Community Foundation Event:** October 4, 11 am to 1 pm Beveridge Room. Phil and Annalora Hoch will be attending as GN members.
 - b. **SEAWA's Forum, "Biodiversity in Riparian Areas":** Ian and Angela will attend on November 2 at MH College and set up a GN display Table. Angela will contact Natasha Rogers from SEAWA.(See item 5.i.below)
 - c. **MH Methanex Community Advisory Panel:** Ian Turner has applied to be a member of CAP, which meets 5 times/year. CAP members are encouraged to share meeting outcomes with their community contacts.
 - d. **Prairie View Point:** Hugh noted the construction here is about half finished. The new sign has not been installed yet.
 - e. **Governance Committee Emails sent to Board Members September 2, 2018:**
 - 1) **PIPA and CASL-**(Personal Information Protection Act and Canada's Anti-Spam Law) ePrivacy regulations for GN Club: After discussion, moved that the Board directs the Governance Committee to draft a Policy and Procedure so that the Society of Grasslands Naturalists complies with PIPA and CASL legislation. **CARRIED.**
 - 2) **Storage of Documents and Records-** After discussion, moved that the Board accept the recommendations of the Governance Committee for updates regarding storage of important Grasslands Naturalists Documents and Records. **CARRIED.**
 - 3) **How is the MHIP System backed up** at the Nature Centre? How often is the backup performed, and where is the backup device stored? David Gue's written response follows:
(The) same procedure as for the last several years (is carried out). All changed files are backed up hourly using Apple Time Machine. Full back up of entire hard drives daily to a separate drive using Carbon Copy Cloner app. User documents and pictures (except Corlaine's) are mirrored to a different computer daily. Corlaine keeps admin files on her computer, so it is backed up separately (hourly with Time Machine and daily with Carbon Copy). David maintains offsite bootable backups at his house so if a machine goes down it can be restored quickly and easily.
David noted that as soon as a decent broadband internet connection is obtained, he would set up a remote backup which would eliminate the need to go personally to the Nature Centre in order to keep offsite backups current.
 - 4) **Indoor Speaker Compensation-**Completed
 - 5) **Policy and Procedure addressing Contracts and Agreements:** Motion made last Board meeting for Governance Committee to draw up a new P & P regarding Lawsuits and Contracts. The Committee is working on this.
 - 6) **Pro Bono Legal service applications:** Viewed last Board Meeting. Paul is looking into this.
 - 7) **Summary of Internet tests for MH Interpretive Centre:** Written report from Paul Thibault. New tests to be carried out after trees are bare of leaves. (See Item 5.m.below).
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen Cowtan absent
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen absent
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen absent
 - d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** Written report from John Slater.
 - 1) Last meeting May 7th;next meeting scheduled for October 29th

- 2) Renovation of Nature Centre progressing with completion expected by end October.
 - 3) Many of the MHIP public activities were conducted off site; programs well attended.
 - 4) Alberta Cultural Days last Sunday September 30th. Many thanks to the Metis Society for the Bannock Party and Dancing with fiddle music which was enjoyed by the public. Also to the Hat Art Club for the excellent display "A Closer Look at Nature". As always, many volunteers came to make this another successful event. (See item 6.b below)
- e. **Issues Committee Report:** Written by John
- 1) Completed survey along the south side of the river from TransCanada Bridge to the MH Public Library to record the beaver activity & lodges as well as invasive weeds. Report sent to the MH Parks Dept.
 - 2) Committee busy with tree wrapping: River Road & Strathcona Island Park 15 trees re-wrapped; Kiwanis River Park 90 trees wrapped; Police Point Park 87 trees wrapped; NW Trail 12 trees wrapped. Total 204 trees wrapped. Fortunately, we had a few new volunteers.
 - 3) Baby's Breath dug: Police Point Park 436 plants dug; NECH path 24 plants; SE Hill Trail 8 plants. Total 468 plants dug.
 - 4) Great Cdn Shoreline Cleanup of Ranchlands Environmental Reserve and River Shoreline on Saturday October 6th starting from NE end of Ranchlands Blvd 9:00 am (map was attached).
- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher reported Randy Taves may be the indoor speaker for the General Meeting October 23rd. Hugh will ask Randy tomorrow since he is meeting with him.
The November speaker will be Jasveen Brar from Medicine Hat, and the January 2019 speaker will be Lorne Fitch.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted the Committee may search for a grant to assist with audio visual equipment for the Nature Centre. This might include portable microphones and a large screen television.
- h. **Field Trip Committee Report:** Submitted by John:
1. 21 Neighbourhood Walks held so far this year. Generally well attended and enjoyed by the participants. Come out and enjoy the next two Walks. More may follow depending on the weather so please check the announcements in the Chronicle.
 2. Next Neighbourhood Walk: this Wednesday morning Oct 3rd Strathcona Island Park starting at the Heritage Building at 10:30 am; and then Oct 10th NW Riverside Trail 1st St NW & 5th Ave NW at 10:30 am.
 3. 6 Birding Field Trips conducted out of town. Many thanks to Ben, Milt & Phil for leading these events which were enjoyed by the participants.
 4. Next Birding Field Trips for Fall Migration: Saturday Oct 13th with Ben Velner to Shuler/Many Island Lakes Trail #8.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner reported she and Ian would be volunteering at the GN Display at the upcoming SEAWA Forum (see item 4.b above).
- j. **Birding Trails Update:** Phil is presently working on a presentation to Badlands Tourism requesting onsite signage at parking areas, viewpoints etc. They are hoping the counties involved will assist with some of the costs.
- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported the group had hoped to start this week, but there have been delays. They want to carry out a pilot project in the City with one on one interaction with a senior. This would involve placing bird feeders, bird baths etc. at the senior's home.
The Sunnyside project is still running, but the loss of staff in the Recreation Department has held up the endeavor.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela said there was nothing new to report.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported the group is waiting for renovations at the Nature Centre to finish. Once leaves have fallen from trees in the area, test results may improve. (see 4.e.7) above). A land line would be costly.
- 6 Other Business:
- a. **Fall festival:** Hugh noted the turnout was good considering the chilly weather. (see 5.d.4) above).
 - b. **Drones** Flying over Police Point Park: This topic may be discussed at the General Meeting October 23rd.
 - c. **Next Board Meeting** 6:30 pm Tuesday November 6, 2018 at Ian and Angela's house.
 - d. Adjournment 7:50 pm
 - e. Refreshments