

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting September 4, 2018
Host- Betty Rainville.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Linda Fisher

Absent: Anne Bernhardt, Ian and Angela Turner

1. Call to Order: 6:37 pm
2. Review and of GN Board Minutes from June 5 2018: Regarding item 5.b.Hugh will discuss this with Corlaine Gardner. There has been differing opinions on the idea of complimentary year memberships for non-members attending GN walks.
Item 4.b. Are any volunteers signed up for the September Farmer's Market table? To check with Angela when she returns
Minutes were adopted after being reviewed. **CARRIED**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Advancing Citizen Science in Alberta:** Workshop Sept. 26 & 27 in Edmonton. Charges are \$60. to \$100. Martha Munz Gue is not able to attend. Do any other GN members wish to participate?
 - b. **SEAWA's Fall Education Forum, "Biodiversity in Riparian Areas":** Nov. 2 2018 MH College: Martha passed on SEAWA's request for GN input on Forum topics. Contact Natasha Rogers at SEAWA to participate in the Forum. This Addition to Agenda item will be sent to John Slater with the Issues Committee.
 - c. **Alberta Ecotrust "Max" Grant or Community Grant applications:** Max grant application due by Sept.14/18 and Community Grant application due by Oct.13/18.
Application for these Grants is not feasible at this time.
Alberta Ecotrust- "Talking Climate Change" event, September 25 from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Calgary. Registration \$35.00.
 - d. **Fall Festival in the Park:** Alberta Culture Days, PP Park Nature Centre, Sunday Sept. 30. Music, dancing, food, games. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts.
 - e. **Vital Conversations Committee & Community Foundation of S.E. AB:** Holding the Vital Conversations Event Oct. 4, 2018 11 am to 1 pm, Beveridge Landmarks Events \$25.99 Registration. GN Rep. invited to attend.
Hugh has attended in the past. To ask Anne Bernhardt if she would be interested in attending. Other volunteers?
4. Action Items:
 - a. **MH Methanex Community Advisory Panel position:** Hugh reported that Ian Turner may be interested in the position. (Hugh to reply to Jody Magill, Methanex, after this Board meeting).
 - b. **Location of the GN General Meeting September 25:** Hugh noted work on the North side of the Nature Centre will be finished next week, so the General Meeting will be held here as usual.
 - c. **Mileage Allowance for Indoor Speakers:** After discussion of the recommendation from the Governance Committee meeting of June 21, 2018 it was **Moved That the Board accept the Governance Committee recommendation to increase the Speaker's compensation to \$0.33/kilometer in mileage allowance for out of town speakers. CARRIED**
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported that \$1764.was returned from the Casino Account due to Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) rulings on unapproved expenses.
She reported that the MHIP bank balance as of July 31, 2018 stands at \$129,637.11.
The GN "Club" balance stands at \$22,426.77 as of August 31, 2018.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen said current membership is approximately at 78. This number includes single memberships as well as family groups, so the actual number of members is more than 78.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported that she had received Nature Alberta Magazine, which is published 4 times per year.
 - d. **Issues Committee Report:** John Slater sent a written report as follows:
 - 1) Have had various email correspondence with Martha on various issues. Plan to have meeting latter part of September when Martha gets back from Yellowknife.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) Committee busy with tree wrapping in Kiwanis River Park: total 110 trees wrapped. Fortunately, we had a few new volunteers.
 - 4) Dug Baby's Breath PPP: 209 plants; and NECH path 24 plants.
 - e. **MHIP Operations Committee Report:** John submitted the following:
 - 1) Last meeting May 7th; next meeting scheduled for October 29th.
 - 2) Renovations of Nature Centre progressing with completion expected by end September.
 - 3) Construction of View Point to be started in the Fall.
 - 4) Many of the MHIP activities were conducted off site. Programs well attended.
 - 5) Alberta Cultural Days planned for end September or beginning October.

- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher reported that Rick Andrews from Lethbridge will show his first film, "Wildlife of the Oldman River Valley", at the next GN General Meeting on September 25.
 - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported there is not much activity at present. The Committee may apply for grants for equipment for Nature Centre meetings and activities.
 - h. **Field Trip Committee Report:** the following submitted by John.
 - 1) 16 Neighbourhood Walks so far this year. Generally well attended and enjoyed by the participants.
 - 2) Next Neighbourhood Walk tomorrow September 5th in Ranchlands Environmental Reserve starting at 9:00 am (changed from 9:30 am). The following Wednesday morning September 12th Redcliff River Park at 10:30 am; then September 19th Kiwanis River Valley Park at 10:30 am.
 - 3) 5 Birding Field Trips out of town. Many thanks to Ben, Milt and Phil for leading these events which were enjoyed by the participants.
 - 4) Next Birding Field Trips: September 15th with Phil to Sauder/Murray Reservoirs; October 13th with Ben to Schuler/Many Island Lakes.
 - i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner absent.
 - j. **Birding Trails Update:** Hugh reported the group will meet on September 13th at 2 pm to further develop distribution and to collect recommendations.
He said the distribution of books is going well. Rob Gardner delivered 2 packages to Regina, and reported that the Writing-on-Stone location is already out of these popular Birding Trail Guides.
Hugh reported Phil Horch also wants B.T. Guides to take to Waskasoo Park, as well as to Manitoba in October.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported that the Bird Tales group has been facing challenges with continuity of groups once they are set up at senior centres. The B.T volunteers meet again next week to determine the way ahead. Currently they plan to get 1 more group set up in the City.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela absent. Hugh to check with Ian and Angela as to whether they are representatives or directors of N.A.
 - m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh referred to a written Summary of Internet tests carried out by Paul Thibault for the MH Interpretive Centre as he tried to improve rate of transmission. One conclusion indicates that a land-line service would provide better signal quality than a commercial wireless service but would be quite costly. The Web cam project is on hold at present.
 - n. **Governance Committee:** Hugh outlined several updates received from Paul to be discussed at the next Board meeting:
 - 1) Indoor Speaker Compensation-(See Item 4.c. under Action Items above) **Completed.**
 - 2) Personal Information Privacy Act (PIPA) and Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) - ePrivacy Regulations for GN Club.
 - 3) P&P addressing Contracts and Agreements- It was **Moved that the Board direct the Governance Committee to draw up a new Policy and Procedure on lawsuits by and against Grasslands Naturalists and on contracts for purchasing and grants. CARRIED.**
 - 4) Storage of Documents and Records- Update on remote storage of data.
How the MHIP System of backup works. Hugh to contact John and MHIP Operations Committee and send information to Corlaine about discussions.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Meadowlark Trail Society:** Hugh reported that a letter of support, for this trail located between Beiseker and Irricana, was sent to Annette Culpe No reply was received yet.
 - b. **Final Phase of "Our City":** Public engagement events and workshops planned September to October 2018 by the City
 - c. **Afternoon in the Park with the Mayor:** August 11, 2 to 4 pm. Hugh reported a good volunteer turn out in spite of the heat. Rob Gardner and Dwayne Myers came to the event by canoe. Saint John Ambulance discussed river safety.
 - d. **Pot luck:** This was held on the East side of Echodale Regional Park on June 26th at 6 pm.
 - e. **Parks Department Meeting:** The June 14 meeting was delayed 1 week. Randy Taves met with Corlaine and Hugh at Northlands near the storm pond across from Northlands Co-op. Possible clearing of some areas to provide a view point was discussed.
 - f. **President of Nature Alberta:** Linda Fisher reported that N.A. President Linda Howitt-Taylor contacted her during a summer visit to Medicine Hat to chat about her (Linda H.T.'s) Nature Alberta areas of concern.
 - g. **Prairie View Point:** Hugh noted Larissa Chepick with Federated Co-op Limited contacted him about signs to be erected at this location. Corlaine is away at present.
 - h. **Next Board Meeting:** 6 pm Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at Anne Bernhardt's house.
 - i. **Adjournment:** 8 pm
 - j. **Refreshments**