

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of General Meeting, May 22, 2018
Police Point Park.

1. Call to Order 7:05 pm with Anne Bernhardt presiding, and Betty Rainville, Secretary.
2. Review and Adoption of General Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2018. **CARRIED**
3. Exciting Sightings: Simonne Flynn reported seeing a totally black baby rabbit.
Dwayne Myers saw a pine siskin in his back yard today.
4. Treasurer's Report and Membership: Eileen reported the balance in the GN "Club" as of May 22, 2018 stood at \$19,039.24. This is the sum of \$16,351.10 in Savings and \$2,688.14 in chequing.
The Casino balance stands at \$10,456.42
Eileen reported a total of 87 memberships made up of family and individual memberships.
5. Correspondence: Eileen received word that GN members Gary and Janet Martin are residing in Crowsnest Pass at present.
6. Priority Business:
 - a. **Contact Marty Drut** to register for the Spring Bird and Wildflower Count on Sunday May 27.
 - b. **Is a volunteer needed** to empty the Nature centre garbage can at the Point by the river weekly? Marty reported the Parks Department is in the process of replacing the can with a more modern version. He thinks the Parks Department will take responsibility for emptying this can.
7. Interpretive Program Report: Marty reminded members about the Spring Bird and Wildflower Count.(6.a.above)
He said renovations at the Nature Centre are continuing with trenching around the building. No inside work has been started yet. Work may be finished by late August or early September 2018.
June 2, Martha Munz Gue leads a walk for Wildflowers at the Teepee and Saamis Coulee. (See 8.c. #5 below).
Marty noted the new McGill student, Meaghan Morter, will be working to the end of August 2018.
He mentioned the Nature Centre, through Tourism Medicine Hat, currently has bikes to rent at no cost. No children's bikes are available however.
Marty noted the River Trail is closed for the summer.
8. Committee Reports:
 - a. **Issues Committee:** John Slater submitted a written report:
 1. Martha hosted the first of two Kitchen Table discussions on Friday April 27th concerning the new City Development Plan. And she is planning to hold the second gathering soon, 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. (At the meeting tonight Martha directed members to the website **myMH.city**, answer "What's your **BIG IDEA**", and click 'submit').
Input from organizations and general public is to be submitted by 31 July. See the article in the May Chronicle.
 2. City/GN project 2018: Re-wrapping trees along River Road and in Strathcona Island were done last Wednesday morning. Invasive Leafy Spurge also located along River Road.
 3. Volunteers are invited to join the activities this Thursday morning in Police Point Park to remove Baby's Breath and wrap trees. Meet at the Park entrance at 8:45 am for Baby's Breath removal and at the Nature Centre at 10:30 am for wrapping trees.
 4. Medicine Hat's Sunshine Festival on June 2nd to launch Environment Week and World Environment Day held on June 5th with emphasis on "Waste Reduction (especially NO plastics!), and Energy Conservation".
 5. Martha noted three interesting SEAWA events:1) SEAWA AGM on June 14th, 1 to 4 pm, MHC Crowfoot Room;
2) Climate Workshop on May 24, 4:30 to 8:30 Comfort Inn;
3) Riparian Restoration of Seven Persons Creek (contact Martha for information and Volunteers needed).
 - b. **MHIP Operations Committee:** written report from John:
 1. Last meeting was held Monday May 7th at the City Parks Office.
 2. Voting members of the committee are: Bob Townsend, Anne Bernhardt, Elaine Spitzer, Simonne Flynn and John Slater as well as GN President, Hugh Armstrong.
 3. Non-Voting members are: Chief Interpreter Corlaine Gardner, Bookkeeper Lisa McMow and City Parks Superintendent Scott Richter.
 4. New GN/City 5-year contractual Agreement Signed in March. Increased level of funding from the City.
 5. Renovations at the Nature Centre proceeding very well. Completion anticipated by end of July or mid-August. View-Point Construction to begin soon.
 6. MHIP Activities still being done at the Nature Centre and Police Point Park or at other park locations.
 7. The MHIP Terms of Reference and the Chief Interpreter's Job Description being reviewed and Updated.
 8. Next Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday October 29th.

- c. **Field Trips & Neighbourhood Walks:** written report from John:
 1. The Neighbourhood Walk last Wednesday was along South East Hill Trail led by John Slater with 6 other GN members. Heard and briefly saw the beautiful, elusive LAZULI Bunting.
 2. The Neighbourhood Walk tomorrow morning "Wildflowers & More" near McCoy High School is led by Martha Munz Gue starting at 10:30 am.
 3. GN Annual Bird and Flower Counts this Sunday. Please sign up for an area with Marty.
 4. The Neighbourhood Walk next Wednesday morning May 30th will be along the North Riverside Trail. Meet at the west end of trailhead on 1st St NW and 5th Ave NW at 10:30 am. Led by John Slater.
 5. Special Wildflower Walk at the Teepee and Saamis Coulee on Saturday June 2nd led by Martha Munz Gue. Meet at the Teepee at 10:30 am. (See Interpretive Program Report above).
 6. The next Neighbourhood Walk will be on Wednesday morning June 6th in Ranchlands River Environmental Reserve led by John Slater. Meet at far end of Ranchlands Blvd at 10:30 am.
 7. On Saturday June 9th, Milt Spitzer will lead a birding Field Trip to Dinosaur Provincial Park (Trail #11). Meet at the North Hill Co-op Liquor Store Parking Lot at 7 am to arrange carpooling.
 8. On Wednesday June 13th, Neighbourhood Walk in Redcliff River Park led by John Slater. Meet in the parking lot near the river at 10:30 am.
 9. Please check the GN Website and the Chronicle for further details and information on other Neighbourhood Walks and Birding Field Trips.
 - d. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Linda Fisher (absent). Judith Golub not able to attend June potluck. Suggestion that Marty be asked to give a summary of the Bird and Wildflower Count at the potluck.
 - e. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong absent.
 - f. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil Horch reported that he successfully delivered B.T. Guides in Winnipeg on a recent trip. Rob Gardner has a distribution plan underway for delivering guide books. While in Arizona Phil reported he delivered a box of Guides which were very well received.
 - g. **Bird Tales Updates:** Dee Armstrong absent.
 - h. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner said there was nothing to report.
 - i. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported they participated in a teleconference on May 8. Nature Alberta is urgently looking for funds, as well as ideas to assist their club financially.
- 9 New Business:
- a. **SEAWA's AGM** June 14-2018. MHC Crowfoot room, 1:00 to 4:00pm. (See Item 8.a.5.#1 above)
 - b. **GN June Potluck:** Marty noted the potluck would be held June 26 at 6 pm. He said it may be held at the Nature Centre but that is not certain. Corlaine will be back tomorrow.
- 10 Other Business:
- a. **Esplanade Open House:** June 12, 3:30 to 7:30 pm on MDP (Municipal Development Planning) Come and go format. Public is invited to discuss the future of Medicine Hat. (See May 2018 Chronicle article).
 - b. **Wildflowers Medicine Hat and Area brochures:** Anne noted that Rob Gardner asked for an extra bundle of 100 brochures for further distribution. Marty said there are some brochures available here at the Nature Centre.
 - c. **Palliser Airshed position open:** David Gue reported that there is a spot available on the PAS as a public representative. There are approximately 6 meetings yearly. Please call David at (403) 526-2226 if you are interested in this position, or in participating in the Airshed AGM on May 30. See David's article in the May 2018 Chronicle called Keeping Clean Air Clean: Palliser Airshed
 - d. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday June 5, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Hugh and Dee's house.
 - e. **Adjournment** at 7:49 pm.
 - f. **Refreshment Break**
 - g. **Program start** 8:00 pm. Speaker Mr. Toby Newton, Urban Bee Keeping