

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of General Meeting, January 23, 2018

Police Point Park Nature Centre

1. Call to Order 7:03 pm with Hugh Armstrong presiding and Eileen Cowtan acting as secretary.
2. Adoption of GN Minutes from November 28, 2017: CARRIED
3. Exciting Sightings: None, in spite of Milt Spitzer driving 200 km in search of them.
4. **Treasurer's Report and Membership:** Eileen Cowtan reported current bank balances of: Chequing account \$1754.17, Savings account \$20,340.28 and Casino account \$16,032.63. GN paid \$3000 to Canadian Badlands Ltd as our share of the cost of the printing of "Birding trails of South Eastern Alberta". Motion: adoption of her report. Carried
5. **Correspondence:** Christmas card from Krystal Bates, casino advisor; photo from Paul Strickland with his membership renewal. GAIN Gaming Information for Charitable Groups registration form.
6. **Priority Business:**
 - a) GN Insurance Coverage. City has said that our liability insurance must be increased to 2 million. Also other additional coverage needed. The invoice should be received before the Feb.7 due date.
 - b) Call for Nominations for Board Positions was in the January "Chronicle". Nominations are to be received, in writing, no less than 30 days prior to the AGM.
 - c) New City Contract: The contract is quite changed from previous years. There have been several meeting with the City. Hopefully all issues will be resolved this month.
7. **Interpretive Program Report:** Corlaine Gardner
 - A new story walk "Bear Snores On" will be introduced Saturday, Jan. 27 in conjunction with the MH Library.
 - Kiwanis Family Day Feb 19 will be held at Police Point Park. Marty is the organizer. A sign-up sheet for helping was circulated
 - Two cross-country ski events were led by John Slater. (MHIP programs are covered with their waivers).
 - IP is involved with an AHS pilot project of Retreat for Teens at Risk as offering wither snow shoeing or letter box activity.
 - Construction of the Nature Centre: now slated for early March.
 - School Chicks & Bunnies programs will be operated from Kin Coulee and the Easter weekend events from the swim centre at Echo Dale Park
8. **Committee Reports:**
 - a) ISSUES COMMITTEE: John Slater
 - Last committee meeting was October 26. Next meeting this Friday January 26 at Marty Drut's house 9am.
 - Following the joint GN/SEAWA Meeting on Oct 5th with City Planning Dept concerning the revisions to the MDP, the committee is collecting data on Environmental Significant & Sensitive Sites. The next meeting with City Planning Dept is to be arranged soon.
 - At the SEAWA Forum on Nov 2nd, GN had a display. Marty & Tina attended and spoke with Robert Sissons about the MDP as well as the GN project completed on Riparian Health Assessment. Marty to send a copy of the report.
 - Wildflower Brochure: Many thanks to Dwayne for carrying the project forward to completion. A copy of the brochure was shown. Printing 5000 copies within the next few weeks so the brochure is available for arrival of spring wildflowers, also the Cdn Badlands Association AGM, as well as GN AGM and distribution.
 - Butterfly & Dragonfly Project: Dave gathering material, pictures, data for developing a website. Also planning field trips this spring and summer.
 - World Water Week coming up March 19 to 24th. WW Day March 22nd. Plan display the MH Public Library on Riparian and Wetlands. Martha mentioned the Council-of-Canadians will show a water related film on March 26th.
 - Field Trips: have had 3 outdoor events: 2 at PPP with X-Country skiing, 1 in Elkwater last Wednesday with 5 members + 8 others from MH.

- b) MHIP OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: John Slater
 - .Next Committee meeting scheduled for Monday Feb 26th, 1:30pm, location TBD. Corlaine has already given a report on the past IP activities: Lion's Club Hay Ride, Young Artists display, Lisa leaving, etc. and the upcoming events such as the story walk, Kiwanis Family Day and Easter programs.
 - New Contract Agreement is being finalized.
- c) FIELD TRIPS & UPCOMING EVENTS: John Slater
 - Elkwater Winter Festival Saturday February 3rd, 9am to 4 pm. Plan to meet at the Elkwater Visitors Centre at 10am for X-Country Skiing.
 - Depending on snow, planning X-country skiing in Elkwater Saturday Feb 17th TBD.
 - Eco Trust gathering March 8-10 in Calgary. Registration is \$250. Martha Munz Gue has attended the previous two years and highly recommends it. Financial assistance from GN may be available.
 - Birding starts with Ben Velner's annual outing at the end of March/beginning of April.
- d) INDOOR PROGRAM SPEAKERS: Dave McKenzie
 Tonight's speaker is Megan Jensen, project co-ordinator of PronghornXing.
 February speaker: Dr. Dinesh Mategaonkar on Environmental Impact Assessments
- e) FUND RAISING COMMITTEE: Hugh Armstrong: nothing to report
- f) BIRDING TRAILS COMMITTEE: Rob Gardner – distribution
 The books have been printed and were available to interested members. Donations for the book are welcome. GN has been asked to make a presentation at the Canadian Badlands Ltd conference on March 14. We will have there our books, bird check lists, and rack cards and will be making a presentation at 2:45pm. Martha suggested that copies be given to SEAWA and that they could be covered in their monthly newsletter.
 - Dave McKenzie said that he would like to see a similar effort called "Nature Trails" covering various species. Rob responded that another idea would be a "Nature Calendar" telling what may be found at all times of the year.
- g) BIRD TALES: No report in Dee's absence. Hugh said that they hope to start again in March at Sunnyside.
- h) COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: no report; Angela Turner is away
- i) NATURE ALBERTA: no report; Ian and Angela are away

9. New Business: None.

10. Other Business:

- a) Webcam Project Update: Hugh reported that it is up and running.
- b) UERAB Park naming: Dave McKenzie
 Dave reported that two names have been selected: Donna MacLean and Bert Maltin who was instrumental in setting up the City's recreations system. Dave feels that Dawn Dickinson's name should be submitted in the future.
- c) Next Board Meeting: Tuesday. February 6, 2018, 6:30pm at Eileen's home.
- d) Adjournment at 7:55 pm. Attendance 20 members
- e) Refreshment Break
- f) Program 8 pm, Attendance 21 people. Speaker: Megan Jensen on PronghornXing.