

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of General Meeting, February 27, 2018  
Police Point Park.

1. Call to Order 7:05 pm with Hugh Armstrong presiding and Betty Rainville, Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of General Meeting Minutes from January 23, 2018. **CARRIED**
3. Exciting Sightings: Rob Gardner saw what he thought may have been a gopher.  
Wendy Blackwell said she recorded a Cooper's hawk catching and eating a Eurasian Collared Dove. The Hawk appeared to frighten the Dove toward a window then attacked it.
4. Treasurer's Report and Memberships: Eileen reported the balance in the GN "Club" as of February 27, 2018 stands at \$20,549.60. This is the sum of \$2,205.47 in Chequing, \$18,342.87 in Savings, and \$1.26 in Shares.  
The Casino Account as of January 31, 2018 stands at \$16,034.36.  
The MHIP balance as of Dec. 31, 2017 stands at \$49,973.84 with a cheque of \$72,469.00 received on February 26, 2018 from the City for the first payment of the new contract.  
Ian Wallis volunteered to help Angela Turner check the Financial Records for accuracy, in the next month. Thank you Ian and Angela.  
Eileen noted that about 50% of GN Members have renewed their annual memberships with the Society.
5. Correspondence: Eileen reported that a former Medicine Hat GN member Jim McKay, now living in Calgary, had approximately 50 Birding books that he wished to donate. Unfortunately space at the Nature Centre is at a premium during the upcoming renovations. The MH Public Library could only accept books during the annual Book Sale. Therefore Eileen asked members at tonight's meeting if they knew of any young people or groups who would be interested in receiving the books.  
Contact Eileen at [ecowtan@hotmail.com](mailto:ecowtan@hotmail.com) or 403 526-1264.  
Moved that all three of Eileen's reports be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**
6. Priority Business:
  - a. **Nominations to be published in the March Sagebrush Chronicle.** To be received by the Board by the end of February 2018. Hugh noted that no nominations had been received by the Board yet.  
John Slater added that nominations may also be accepted from the floor at the March GN AGM on March 27.  
Bill Knibbs agreed to act as Nomination Chair. Hugh requested that nominations therefore be sent to Bill.
  - b. **Annual Reports to Paul Thibault by March 15, 2018.** Hugh reported some reports have already been sent in.
  - c. **World Water Week March 19-24th.** Hugh noted Marty Drut will have a Riparian Health display available at the MH Public Library from March 19-24. John Slater noted GN volunteers should likely be present to participate on the actual World Water Day, March 22.
  - d. **Table and Presentation to Canadian Badlands Tourism at MH Lodge-**Rob Gardner is booked to give a presentation on "Birding" on Thursday, March 15 from 9 am-10 am. Contact Angela Turner to volunteer at the GN display table available during some of the CBT Conference.
  - e. **New City Contract.** Hugh said the Contract is now completed. It contains 52 pages rather than the 19 pages of the previous Contract. Hugh thanked Bob Townsend, Anne Bernhardt, Corlaine Gardner, John Slater, and Paul Thibault for their assistance and input throughout the entire process. In turn, John Slater thanked Hugh for all his efforts toward contract completion.  
Motion to accept the new five year Contract between the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program and the City of Medicine Hat. **CARRIED**
  - f. **AGM Location and Speaker.** The AGM will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at Unity Lutheran Church basement at 8 Palliser Place N.E. starting at 7 pm. Anne Bernhardt will let Hugh know more about chair set up before the meeting in the existing day care room at the church.  
Hugh will check with Dave McKenzie regarding the speaker for that evening.
7. **Interpretive Program Report:** Corlaine Gardner reported The City is hoping for several good bids regarding upcoming renovations at the Nature Centre. Bids will be reviewed by the City, Contracts set up, and then a Schedule will be announced. She said Easter Chicks and Bunnies programs, as well as Easter weekend activities, will still take place at the Nature Centre. Volunteers are needed for the last two weeks before Easter as well as March 30, 31 and April 1 and 2.  
Corlaine passed out copies of the pamphlet, Raising The Curtain- A Celebration of Diversity & Inclusion, Medicine Hat events to take place March 7 to 29.  
Police Point Park will be hosting the StoryWalk on March 11 from 2-3 pm called As Big As the Sky, As Tall As the Trees. Two volunteers are needed for the Sunday afternoon event.  
The annual musical performance with Bill Wahl and friends will not be happening this year. Hopefully it will return to the Nature Centre next spring, 2019.

Corlaine reported the Kiwanis Family Day Activities on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> were not as busy as other years but everyone had fun. The temperature was -24 degrees Celsius with wind chill.

City Parks Department has asked GN and the MHIP to help with a possible Riparian Health Exhibit for Earth Day on April 21. (see 8.a. (4) below)

Moved adoption of the Interpretive Program Report. **CARRIED**

John thanked Corlaine, Marty and Valerie for all the effort they have put into the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program.

8. Committee Reports:

- a. **Issues Committee:** John Slater submitted a written report and spoke about the following topics:
- (1) Albera EcoTrust Gathering in Calgary, 8-10 March: both Martha and Tina registered to attend.
  - (2) City's Municipal Development Plan; Martha, Tina and John spoke recently with Robert Sissons and attending the Municipal Development Committee meeting at City Hall on afternoon of Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. We are encouraged to hold "kitchen-table" gatherings of small groups to discuss the vision of the new MHP according to suggestions and questions posed on the City's website [www.mymh.ca](http://www.mymh.ca) so we are planning to hold gatherings soon. Any members interested, please contact Martha.
  - (3) Recent Sustainability Network Webinar held Feb 14 at the MH Public Library: Results of a survey done last October to collect Canadian's opinion on Climate Change were presented. Nine people attended the webinar. Interesting results which led to discussions after the webinar. GN appreciates the Library hosting the webinar. (John noted this webinar may be available to view privately if the code is obtained.)
  - (4) SEAWA's Project concerning Seven Persons Creek Riparian Restoration: GN volunteers are encouraged to participate in the field work even if a formal partnership agreement is not forthcoming. Information sessions and walks are planned to introduce GN members to the areas along the creek that will have restoration work. SEAWA has already prepared a report showing some of the areas which need restoring and plants which occur along the creek.
  - (5) Wildflower Brochure: printed and ready for distribution. Many thanks to Dwayne and Martha for seeing it through to completion. Further information available on the Wildflower website which Dwayne composed. John noted preparation of the Brochure was funded in part by the **MH Horticultural Society** and the **AB Native Plant Council**. Cathy Linowski of **MH College** assisted with the brochure. John also thanked Rob Gardner for contributing pictures to the Brochure. Special Neighbourhood Walk focusing on wildflowers will be organized starting on Wed. March 28<sup>th</sup> for finding crocus flowers. In mid-June, GN members are encouraged to attend the Waterton Wildflower festival; contact Martha Munz Gue. (Ian Turner suggested taking 50 or more Brochures to the next MH Horticultural Society event.) Thanks Ian.
  - (6) Field Trips: X-Country skiing on Monday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> in Elkwater 11 am at Spring Creek Trail. World Water Week March 19-24<sup>th</sup> at MH Library GN display and events. First Neighbourhood Walk Wed March 28<sup>th</sup> East Glen Nature Park to see Crocus otherwise April 11<sup>th</sup>. Ben's Annual Birding Trip to Manyberries Sat March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Moved Adoption of the Issues Committee Report. **CARRIED**
- b. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Items from the MHIP Operations Committee were all covered by Corlaine in the Interpretive Program Report. (See # 7 above).
- c. **Field Trips:** Upcoming Events as Follows:
- (1) EcoTrust, March 8-10 (See 8.a. (1) above)
  - (2) March 31<sup>st</sup>, Ben Velner to Manyberries (See 8.a. (6) above)
  - (3) Waterton Wildflowers Trip (See 8.a. (5) above)
- d. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Member's Night Presentations tonight- Including Sri Lanka and Southern Peru by Elaine and Milt Spitzer respectively.
- e. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong. No Report.
- f. **Birding Trails Project:** Birding Trails Guide available to all GN members. Rob Gardner announced that distribution of these Trail Guides is well underway. The group will meet this week to finalize details. As far as including the Wildflower Brochure with the distribution of B.T. Guides, Rob noted the audience may not always be the same for both publications.
- g. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee Armstrong, that the Bird Tales group is meeting with the recreation director at South Country Village on March 8. There is an ongoing need for more volunteers. As a result, the Bird Tales members are only able to implement the project at one facility at a time.
- h. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner reported the new name tags were used at tonight's General Meeting. The tags will fit neatly into the box and be easy to locate if the strings are tucked into the holder, and the tags are filed alphabetically under member surnames. Thanks Angela.

- i. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported the Nature Alberta e-News should have been received by all GN members who agreed to NA emailing this newsletter.  
There will be a meeting on March 24 in Edmonton from 9 am to 3 pm which Ian and Angela will cover via teleconference from Medicine Hat. Angela has requested that Nature Alberta give adequate notice of their meetings so that out of town reps may schedule to attend.

Moved adoption of the Communications Committee and Nature Alberta Report. **CARRIED**

9. New Business

- a. **Nomination for the Birding Trails Committee:** Details have been sent to Canadian Badlands Tourism for the nomination of the Birding Trails Committee for the Cindy Amos award.

10. Other Business

- a. **Web Cam Project and Update:** Hugh reported the camera is no longer at the Nature Centre location.
- b. **UERAB Park Naming:** Dave McKenzie away. Hugh noted that Dawn Dickenson's name has been suggested as well as one other name, Bert Maltin, recommended by Parks Department. Rob Gardner said Mr. Maltin was active in the creation of parks and the city's recreation system.
- c. **Next Board meeting** Tuesday March 6, 6:30 pm at Betty's house.  
Hugh noted we need 2 more Board members at present. He invited members to come out to Board meetings.
- d. **Adjournment** at 7:55 pm. Attendance 27 people.
- e. Refreshment Break
- f. **Program start** 8:13 pm Attendance- 29. Speakers- Elaine and Milt Spitzer.