

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Unity Lutheran Church
Tuesday, March 27, 2018.

1. Call to Order 7:05 pm-Hugh Armstrong (Chair); Betty Rainville (Secretary)
2. Review of the March 28, 2017 AGM Minutes. **Moved that Minutes be Adopted. CARRIED.**
3. **Committee Reports:** Hardcopy of all reports to be available at the meeting and **posted on GN Website** www.natureline.info/gn. Those with an asterisk* gave an oral summary report at the meeting.
 - a. ***President's Report:** Hugh Armstrong highlighted specific points from his written report, which was printed in the March 2018 Sagebrush Chronicle.
 - b. ***Treasurer's Report:** Eileen Cowtan reported Financial Statements for GN Naturalists "Club" and the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program. Both showed a positive balance at year's end. She extended thanks to Ian Wallis and Angela Turner for reviewing and auditing the 2017 financial records, and to John Slater for proof reading. A copy of the Treasurer's Report for 2017 may be found in the March 2018 Chronicle.
 - c. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner. Report is online.
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** John Slater thanked the Operations Committee, and especially Corlaine and Staff, for the great programs provided. He noted that last year 49 events were run at the Nature Centre. The report is online.
 - e. **Interpretive Program:** Corlaine Gardner away. Hugh reminded everyone that volunteers are needed for the upcoming Easter Programs. See report online.
 - f. **Issues Committee:** John's report is online. At tonight's AGM he explained the revision of the City's Municipal Development Plan that invites individuals or groups to give input at myMH website. Much of the three Issues Committee meetings in 2017 were focused on the environmental aspects of revising the City's Municipal Development Plan. John also reported that he and Hugh Armstrong met with the City, the week before last, to discuss Leafy Spurge, pollinator gardens, invasive weeds, and biological control agents.
 - g. **Budget Committee:** Paul Thibault. See online report.
 - h. **Governance Committee:** Paul Thibault. See online report.
 - i. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong reported a very successful fund raising year. See online report.
 - j. **Field Trips Committee:** Gary Martin and John Slater. See online report.
 - k. **Indoor Programs Committee:** Dave McKenzie thanked Linda Fisher for assuming this position. Thanks to Dave for bringing in excellent Indoor Speakers for 2017. The list is online.
 - l. **Birding Trails Project:** Members include Phil Horch, Milt Spitzer, Bob Frew, Rob Gardner, Hugh Armstrong, John Slater, Paul Thibault and Marty Drut.
Hugh reported 80 Birding Trail Guidebooks were distributed in Arizona for birders who wish to visit our area especially in June, July and August. Approximately 1 case was presented to Canadian Badlands Tourism.
 - m. **Bird Tales Project:** Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault absent. Hugh reported the Bird Tales project will be started April 12th at South Country Sunnyside/Sunnyview. At the end of the year the program will be turned over to the Recreation Program at the Senior Centre.
An in-depth report may be seen online giving the background and purpose of Bird Tales, as well as successes and challenges, and a "way ahead" plan and discussion.
 - n. **Carol Porter Bluebird Trail:** Milt Spitzer. See report online.
 - o. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela Turner. Angela requested a case of Birding Trail Guidebooks for Nature Alberta and was advised to ask at the Nature Centre desk. See report online.

Moved that all previous Reports be ADOPTED. CARRIED.

4. **Elections:**
Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
Led by John Slater. He reported that Bill Knibbs has phoned GN members to encourage their participation. John called for Nominations from the floor, and the following members were voted in:
Secretary: Betty Rainville
Treasurer: Eileen Cowtan
Vice President: Anne Bernhardt
President: Hugh Armstrong
5. **Other Business:**
 - a. **Directors Appointments:** The Board appoints these at the first meeting following the AGM in April.

Past President- Dave McKenzie

Directors at Large- Hugh reported two directors at large have allowed their names to stand. These are: Ian Turner and Angela Turner, with one vacancy to be filled.

b. Committees Volunteers Selection (confirmed at next Board Meeting April 3, 2018).

Committees to meet in April to select Chairperson and Confirm Budget:

1. Communications Committee
2. Budget Committee
3. Governance Committee
4. Issues Committee
5. MHIP Operations Committee.
6. Field Trips Committee. (John Slater reported there is no Field Trip Committee at present. The Issues Committee is helping out).
7. Indoor Program Committee
8. Fund Raising Committee

c. Projects: (contacts)

Carol Porter Bluebird Trail- Milt Spitzer

Birding Trails- Phil Horch, Milt Spitzer, Bob Frew, Rob Gardner

Bird Tales- Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault.

Butterflies, Dragonflies & More- Dave McKenzie

Wildflowers- John Slater, Martha Munz Gue, Dwayne Myers

GN/City Parks Dept. Projects- Hugh, John

d. External Organization Reps (Volunteer confirmed at next Board meeting).

1. Nature Alberta- Ian and Angela Turner
2. SEAWA- John noted there is no rep presently.

6. **Announcements:** John reported the following:

- a. Nature Alberta Webinar on Birding in Grasslands; March 28 at noon.
- b. Field Trip: The Annual trip to Manyberries area, led by Ben Velner, was scheduled Saturday March 31; 6:00 am leaving from Tim Hortens on Strachan Road SE. John pointed out this date has been changed to April 7th because of weather.
- c. Neighbourhood Walk: Changed to Wednesday April 4th. Search for Crocuses and other Wildflowers; East Glen Nature Park Trailhead at 10:30 am.
- d. MHIP Chicks and Bunnies Easter Celebration; March 30 to April 2. John encouraged members to sign the volunteer sheet for this coming Easter weekend.
- e. SEAWA Forum: Responsible Recreation in and Around Water; Friday April 6th, 8 am- 4 pm at MH College. Includes Field Trip, 1:15- 4 pm to Cypress Hills Interpretive Centre.
- f. Mixed Grass Forum; MH College, April 12, 8 am -4 pm. There is a fee. Registration is open to April 6th. See the Chronicle for more information.
- g. Seedy Saturday: Held April 14th likely at the Nature Centre from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. Horticultural Society members will be present as well as the Permaculture Guild, Beekeeping Association, City Xeriscaping, and Vermicomposting displays.
- h. Meeting with City concerning proposed Brier Run Development Plan: April 18th at Family Leisure Centre at 11 am. Please meet in the main foyer.
- i. City Parks Dept. Project, Saturday April 21; City wide clean-up. (Litter Blitz). John noted there will be a designated area posted in the Chronicle. Meet at Police Point Park at 9:30 am.
Ian Turner said the Paddling Club will cover the Seven Persons Creek area.
- j. Waterton Wildflower Festival, June 15 to 18th. Contact Martha Munz Gue for information. Programs fill up quickly so register early.
- k. Caught in the Spin by Dawn Dickinson: Hugh is presently storing 9 cases of these books at his residence. The Nature Centre will take 1 case.
Moved that the remainder of these books, Caught in the Spin, be written off the inventory. CARRIED.
- l. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday April 3, 2018, 6:30 pm at Ian and Angela's house.
- m. Next General Meeting April 24, 7:00 pm likely at the Unity Lutheran Church. Guest speaker Dr. Gail Michener at 8:00 pm.
- n. Adjournment of the meeting at 8:05 pm
- o. Socializing & Refreshments : 8:05 pm to 8:15 pm
- p. Tonight's Indoor Program 8:15 pm. "Plant Zonation in Riparian Areas" by Marilou Montemayor, SEAWA Executive Director. Attendance 23

