

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting April 2, 2019

Hosted by Hugh and Dee Armstrong.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Phil Horch, Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Linda Fisher, and Anne Bernhardt.

1. Call to Order: 6:37 pm.
 2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from March 5, 2019. **CARRIED.**
Business arising from the minutes: Hugh reported that Paul Thibault meets tomorrow to register the GN Domain Name. Hugh will talk to Corlaine Gardner to discuss both web pages, GN as well as MHIP.
 3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Civic Recognition Awards (now called Community Spirit Awards):** Nominations due May 31.
Hugh will send a call for nominations, as well as names of previous winners, to the Chronicle, to be published in early May. A nomination form may be viewed at www.medicinehat.ca
 - b. **Wildflower Walk:** Martha Munz Gue submitted a list of suggested walks to John Slater, who emailed the Board, and Milt at the Chronicle, with some modifications and suggestions for future Neighbourhood Walks. Thanks Martha and John.
(See 5.h. below)
 - c. **1) Directors Appointments:** A brief Board meeting was held directly after the AGM ended on March 26th at 6:45 pm at the MH Public Library to appoint Directors at Large.
An **ADDENDUM** was placed at the end of the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes after a **Motion** to appoint Ian and Angela Turner, and Linda Fisher as GN Board Directors at Large was **CARRIED**. Dave McKenzie remains Past President.
2) Committee Volunteers Selection: Committees to meet in April 2019 to select Chairperson and confirm Budget:
Communications Committee-Angela Turner
Budget Committee-Paul Thibault
Governance Committee-Paul Thibault
Issues Committee-Martha Munz Gue (Interim Chair)
MHIP Operations Committee-Bob Townsend (Interim Chair)
Field Trips Committee-open
Indoor Committee-Linda Fisher
Fund Raising Committee-Hugh Armstrong
3) Projects-contacts:
Carol Porter Trail-Milt Spitzer
Birding Trails-Phil Horch
Bird Tales-Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault
Butterflies, Dragonflies and More-Dave McKenzie
GN/City Parks Department Liaison-Hugh Armstrong, John Slater
4) External Organization Reps:
Nature Alberta-Ian and Angela Turner
SEAWA-Anne Bernhardt to ask Tina Regehr if she will be **GN's** Rep to SEAWA
(Tina Regehr and Martha Munz Gue are presently serving on the **SEAWA** Communications Committee)
Palliser Airshed Society (PAS)-David Gue
UERAB-Dave McKenzie
 - d. **Party for Volunteers:** At the Nature Centre, April 4th. Please phone Corlaine if you will be attending
4. Action Items:
 - a. **SEAWA Spring Forum:** To be held April 5 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Cultural Centre, Room CC169.
Theme is Water Management. Contact www.seawa.ca.
Ian and Angela will supervise a GN display on Invasive Species at the Forum.
Martha will lead a Pond Walk near the Cultural Centre at 10:00 am.
 - b. **Invasive Species Workshop May 4:** Hugh reported he is waiting to hear from the Alberta Native Plant Council regarding the \$1,000.00 funding applied for earlier to be put toward this workshop. **(See 5.g. below)**
Methanex has contributed \$500.00. Further sponsorship is still needed for this project.
Anne Bernhardt spoke about the successful pre-workshop held earlier in March.
 - c. **Litter Blitz:** to be held April 13th so members may still volunteer at the Nature Centre for Easter Celebrations.
Ian and Angela have searched out areas in Ranchlands needing cleaning. Members will meet in the same areas as other years at the end of Ranchlands Blvd. at 9:30 am. Thank you Ian and Angela.
 - d. **Chicks and Bunnies Celebration:** Volunteers are needed for this popular event held April 19 -21 from 10 am to 4 pm, and Monday from 10 am to 2 pm. Marty has requested rags, egg cartons, plastic ice cream buckets, and newspapers

to be used at the Nature Centre Easter celebrations.

5. Reports:

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen suggested that one Annual Report from various GN committees be published each month in the Chronicle, in order to provide more access for members wishing to read the reports. (These reports are also available on the GN web page).
Eileen reported that SEAWA contributed \$200 to the upcoming May 4th Workshop.
The GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,433.56 as of March 31, 2019 and the Chequing Account balance is \$4,945.08 on March 31. Common Shares are \$1.30 bringing Total Current Assets to \$22,365.04. The Casino Account is down to \$2,016.01 in Servus Chequing.
- b. **Membership:** Eileen reported there are 80 memberships presently.
- c. **Correspondence:** Eileen received a copy of Nature Alberta Magazine. She also mentioned a GN member inquiry regarding recommended procedure to follow for donating items to GN.
- d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** Anne reported the next Committee meeting will be held May 6th if Bob Townsend is back.
Hugh noted some electrical changes had to be made at the Nature Centre before new chairs and Audio Visual Equipment could be brought in. A brief discussion was held on the importance of trolleys, and the cost and suitability of various types of chairs.
- e. **Issues Committee Report:** Martha submitted an email outlining the recent plans and activities of this Committee below:
The next GN Issues Committee Meeting will be either April 10, 11 or 12.
1) The Water Week Displays and activities at the Public library are completed as of today.
UN World Water Day is TODAY, March 22! Check the Website! Participating groups were GN, IP, SEAWA, the Public Library, Paddling Club, Water Run, City Parks, Hat Smart, and River Heights Grade 4.
Featured displays included Invasive Species, Plastics in the water and everyday practice to reduce single use plastic, and Riparian Restoration.
Thank you Tina Regehr, Ian and Angela for your help and participation.
2) Water Management Workshop hosted by SEAWA at the Cultural Centre on April 5. GN will have a display and lead a walk around the College Pond. Go to www.SEAWA.ca for more info.
3) Earth Day is April 22 and the City is planning a huge Earth Day Celebration with City Wide Cleanup engaging many service clubs and teams. Check the City Parks website for details.
The GN Cleanup of Ranchlands will be the week before.
4) Invasive Species Workshop on May 4 at the Nature Centre is being planned by Gerry Ehler and Marty Drut.
Invasive Species was an issue Identified by the Issues Committee and Ger has run with the challenge to plan the workshop.
All Issues committee people and more will be needed on May 4.
5) Communication with the City is ongoing: Municipal Planning, Parks and Rec, Hat Smart, UERAB, and Mayor.
RE: Environmental Advisement, New MDP, Invasive Species, Riparian restoration, Water Week, and upcoming Forums.
Dave McKenzie is on the UERAB (Urban Environment and Recreation Advisory Board)
President of GN is in ongoing contact with Parks Dept.
6) Communication with SEAWA is ongoing. Tina has agreed to serve on the SEAWA Communications Committee.
- f. **Indoor Speaker Report:** Linda Fisher reported that Ian Wallis and Wendy Blackwell will be presenting slides and a description of their recent trip to India entitled, The Wild and Not so Wild Life of Rajasthan, India.
May's speaker will be Sandi Robertson speaking on Ord's kangaroo rat.
November's speaker will likely do a presentation on the Calgary Zoo.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported we are waiting to hear from the Alberta Plant Council for the \$1,000. amount to be put toward the Invasive Species Workshop. **(See 4.b. above)**
\$500.00 was received from Methanex.
- h. **Field Trip Update: (See 3.b. above)** John and Martha's submitted suggestions :
 - 1) That the SEAWA pond walk at 10:00 am on April 5th be counted as the First Neighbourhood Walk.
 - 2) John suggested that possibly Milt and Phil can coordinate the Walks with the planning of the Birding Field Trips so the Walks can also highlight the spotting of birds in the city areas.
 - 3) Gerry Ehler and Wendy/Ian will need contacting to see if they can lead Walk Number 2 and 3 respectively to Ajax Coulee and Crocus Coulee. The walks may be reversed depending on the weather. (Hugh will call Martha about this, as well as listing it in the Chronicle).
Eileen will draft an email about the Walks.

- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela reported they are waiting to hear about costs of website updates from Paul. She will register a spot for a GN table at the May, June and September Farmer's Market.
- j. **Birding Trails:** Phil noted that Canadian Badlands Tourism (CBT) has reorganized with Lonna Hogan as new Executive Director since February 2019.
Phil will submit an article for Nature Alberta Magazine on the Birding Trail Guides.
- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Paul and Dee, that the group will start again on April 25th at Sunnyview-South Country Village with 2 volunteers to assist them. Bird feeders will be allowed on the windows at this location. The Bird Tales Committee has purchased two terrariums for a Fairy Garden Project for the residents to enjoy.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported they will participate in Part 2 of the NA Meeting tomorrow night, April 3, by teleconference. They also attended Part 1 which was held on March 30th.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh noted the prospect for the web cam will depend on Paul's findings. It will be put back up this Fall if there is enough speed.

6. **Other Business:**

- a. **SEAWA proposal regarding UERAB:** After discussion, it was Moved that Hugh send a letter of support for the SEAWA proposal to Parks and Recreation Department, with a c.c. to the SEAWA. **CARRIED.**
- b. **Casino Volunteering:** Hugh reported the request for the Casino has been accepted. Dave has asked that volunteers keep their same positions and dates as the previous Casino, if possible. Call Dave to confirm your position at 403 527-1701.
- c. **Official Nature Centre Opening:** Hugh reported the opening may correspond with the Summer Solstice, possibly on June 21st, when the grass is green.
MHAC, the City, and GN would have an unveiling at the same time once the Nature Centre clean-up is finished.
- d. Next Board Meeting: 6:30 pm Tuesday, May 7th at Betty's house.
- e. Adjournment: 8:30 pm
- f. Refreshments