

## **SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING - APRIL 7, 2015**

**Present:** Anne Bernhardt, Hugh Armstrong (host), Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, Dave McKenzie, Betty Rainville, guests Rob and Corlaine Gardner

**1. Call to Order:** 6:33 pm. President Dave in the chair, Anne acting as secretary.

**2. Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting. Motion CARRIED

**3. Addition to Agenda:** SSRP Biodiversity Framework draft report presented by Rob Gardner. Motion passed that the draft report be accepted and submitted to Todd Sharpe, Parks and Recreation Department, Medicine Hat.

### **4. Action Items**

- a. City contract list of equipment: Hugh to work with Corlaine this coming week.
- b. "Bird Tales" update: Hugh noted that grant from City of M.H. Declined. Bird feeders have been set up at Masterpiece.
- c. Book "Caught in the Spin: number of books in Nature Alberta office not known yet.
- d. February Indoor Program: thank you letter for the two speakers has been sent to Calgary Zoo.
- e. March Indoor Program: Gary has already thanked guest speaker.
- f. Baby's Breath Project: Hugh reported that a proposal of removal has gone to City for consideration. Will check with Calfrac to determine if workers are available.
- g. Environmental Civic Recognition Award: Nomination of Sean Allen completed.
- h. M.H. Community Foundation Endowment Plan: Anne is waiting to hear from Mike Christie.
- i. Meeting with Todd Sharpe, Parks and Recreation Dept. Manager: refer to item 3 in minutes

### **5. Reports:**

- a. Treasurer: Eileen presented end of March statements. Total GN club: \$23,030.48. IP: \$72,502.55.
- b. Membership: Eileen reported GN has 96 memberships; 66% of members have renewed.
- c. Correspondence: Mail from Alberta Gaming and City of M.H. Advising GN was not accepted for City Grant.
- d. Indoor Program: April 28<sup>th</sup>: Janet Ng, Edmonton: Ferruginous Hawk Research;  
May 26<sup>th</sup>: Ian and Angela Turner, M.H. "Walking Tour of Northern England".
- e. Fundraising: Co-op receipts for Sep 15-Mar15 to be handed in to Anne or Nature Centre;  
Casino: Hugh will file list of new Executive of GN to Casino office.
- f. Field Trips: Bird & Flower Count on May 24<sup>th</sup>

### **6. Other Business**

- a. AGM arrangements: Board thanked Gary for arrangements made with MH College.
- b. Appointment of 4 Directors:
  1. Past Pres: Anne Bernhardt
  2. Directors at Large: Gary Martin, Carol O'Brien\*, Wendy Fayad-Dennis\*. Motion carried that the 3 Directors-at-Large be appointed to the GN Board, but Carol and Wendy later declined.
- c. Appointment of Standing Committees
  1. Communications: Eileen Cowtan
  2. Operations: Gary Martin; (Interpretive Program: Corlaine Gardner)
  3. Issues: John Slater
  4. Budget: Paul Thibault
  5. Governance: Paul Thibault
  6. Fundraising: Hugh Armstrong
  7. Field Trips: Gary Martin
  8. Indoor Programs: Dave McKenzie

Motion carried that above named call committee meeting for selection of a chair of respective committee and to establish a budget to give to the Budget Committee.

### **d. Confirmation of Projects**

1. Carol Porter Bluebird Trail: Milt Spitzer
  2. Bird Tales Project: Dee Armstrong
  3. Birding Trails: Phil Horch
- e. Appointment of External Rep for Nature Alberta: Mike O'Shea (September) with Martha Munz Gue as alternative
  - f. Staff Benefits: Motion carried that GN Board approve acceptance of OASSIS for the IP Staff Benefits Package.
  - g. Butterfly Pamphlet: Dave M. Will get prices on pamphlets for next meeting.
  - h. Life Membership Presentations at AGM: Bob Frew and Corlaine Gardner will give their presentations to Milt Spitzer for inclusion in the Chronicle and to Paul Thibault for GN Website.

Next Board Meeting Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Anne Bernhardt's at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. Refreshments followed.