

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING
January 6, 2015

Present: John Slater (host), Anne Bernhardt, Dave McKenzie, Monica Bartha, Gary Martin, and Hugh Armstrong.

1. Call to Order – 6:38pm.
2. Review & Adoption of GN Board minutes from December 2, 2014. Motion carried.
3. Action Items:
 - a. City Contract List of Equipment update: Randy Tavis, City Park’s Dept, met with Corlaine Gardner on December 8, 2014. John reported that further discussion is needed to reduce the list of equipment.
 - b. “Bird Tales” Audubon program: Hugh reported that the package was received today. Plans are to make a budget for supplies (eg. feeders, seeds, stuffed birds) available from the Nature Centre and apply to the Medicine Hat Charitable Foundation for a grant to cover the costs. Hugh has arranged a meeting with the Alzheimer’s group on Jan 15th to discuss this project. Bird feeders will be setup in the spring at one residence facility first. The program will begin with the common birds such as chickadees, robins, etc. At least two volunteers are needed to run the project at the residence.
 - c. MH Community Foundation: Hugh brought the application of the Community Knowledge Center for Anne to review and sign. The GN profile information will be submitted to CF for the online site. Paul Thibault will be the GN contact person. Mike Christie will be the contact for the Community Knowledge Center.
4. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer’s report: End December 2014; GN balance is \$21, 852.25 and IP balance is \$31, 684.04.
 - b. Membership report: unchanged at 94 memberships with 137 members.
 - c. Operations Committee report – Gary: City budget shows 2.3% increase in the MHIP contract. Next committee meeting likely end February.
 - d. Issues Committee report: John reported the following highlights of the last committee meeting Dec 9th hosted by Martha Munz Gue: 1) for Sage Grouse, Marty Drut recommends the focus should be on improving their habitat to increase their survival; 2) for reducing the use of Plastic Bags & Bottles, the City has deferred the issue to the Alberta Government, therefore GN will not pursue further at this time; 3) for Bees & Pollinators, the City only does limited, selective spraying with herbicides (not pesticides); 4) Dave is discussing with local schools a program called “Earth Rangers” to promote public awareness of species at risk; and 5) the letter from Todd Sharpe, General Manager City Parks and Recreation, is being printed in the GN Chronicle starting last month.
 - e. Indoor Program Committee report – Dave: For the next GN General Meeting on January 27th, a video conferencing from the Pincher Creek and District Municipal Library will be showed at the MH Public Library starting at 7:00pm titled, “**Ranchers, Cattle and Prairie Species At Risk: an essential ecosystem to support**”. This presentation by François Blouin will give a glimpse into wildlife species and ranchers dependency on the prairie grassland.
 - f. Fund Raising Committee report – Hugh: for the Buckthorn Project, everything is currently on hold.

Hugh and Corlaine Gardner will be meeting in 2-3 weeks to discuss future projects. Members are encouraged to bring their Co-op receipts to help with this fundraiser. September 15, 2014 to March 15, 2015 is the next round for receipts to be brought in with your co-op number and name on the receipt. Casino fundraiser: A workshop is coming up on March 4th to introduce gaming procedures, etc. Gary Martin is the contact person for this if anyone is interested in attending.

- g. Budget Committee report – John for Paul Thibault: a meeting was held on December 29th concerning the GN Club budget from April 1 to December 31st 2014. The budget as quoted was accepted by the Board.
5. Other Business:
- a. Pamphlet for Butterflies (Dave) and Wildflowers (Martha): Dave, found out that the butterflies pamphlet may cost \$3.50 a piece to create. Dave has plans rolling for creating the butterfly pamphlet. Martha absent – no report.
 - b. Staff Benefits – John: Board agreed to pursue further analysis and will discuss with the Budget committee. Unanimous decision to carry forward.
 - c. Community Foundation Endowment Plan – John: Further meeting with Mike Christie needs to be arranged.
 - d. Birding Trail Project: Paul Thibault has obtained a map of the MH area developed on Alberta Government AltaLIS website and sent it to Milt for further review. Eventually, this project will be available on the website.
 - e. World Water Week/Day - John: Martha Munz Gue is helping to organize a display at the Medicine Hat Public Library Monday March 16 to Sunday March 29th. On Sunday March 22, Canada Water Day, plans are being discussed to hold a water day forum 2-4pm at the library with some guest speakers.
 - f. Grasslands Naturalists 30th Anniversary: 1985 is when we began to be a charitable organization. At the GN AGM on March 24th, plans to consider a special function and present an Honourary Life-Time membership. Also, plan special field trips during the year. Perhaps at the Potluck in June to have a cake. This topic should be brought at every meeting and set a committee to organize special events during the year to celebrate the anniversary and highlight the achievements of the club.
 - g. AGM nomination committee: Bill Knibbs will work with John on finding members who would like to be on Executive Board.
 - h. Next GN General Meeting January 27th: see paragraph 4.e.
6. Next Board Meeting: Thursday February 5, 2015 at Anne's house at 6:30 pm.
7. Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm.