

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING – June 2, 2015

Present: Eileen Cowtan (host), Anne Bernhardt, Dave McKenzie, Hugh Armstrong, John Slater, Ian and Angela Turner, Betty Rainville, Gary Martin; guest Mike Christie; absent Corlaine Gardner

1. **Call to Order:** 6:36 pm. President Dave - chair, Betty - secretary.

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

3. **Addition to Agenda:** Nil

4. Action Items

- a. **Directors-at-Large:** Ian and Angela Turner appointed. Moved. Seconded. CARRIED
- b. **City contract list of equipment** update: Hugh and Corlaine met and revised the list giving replacement and depreciated values. Corlaine to meet with Randy Taves June 3 to discuss the revised list and submit to the City Parks & Rec. Dept for approval and amendment of Contract.
- c. **“Bird Tales”** update: Hugh reported that Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault met again at Masterpiece Corp May 14th and 28th. The Alzheimer Society would like further GN participation in June. Additional GN volunteers needed. Article to go into the Chronicle.
- d. Book **“Caught in the Spin”**: number of books in Nature Alberta office not known yet; wait for Mike O’Shea to arrive in Edmonton for more information.
- e. **Baby’s Breath Project:** John reported project is proceeding. He will talk with Lisa James June 3. EcoTrust Foundation looking for 1-day project for 10 - 20 volunteers. They also have possible grants.
- f. **Environmental Civic Recognition Award** to Sean Allen: John reported on the great event at the Esplanade; article to appear in the Chronicle.
- g. **M.H. Community Foundation Endowment Plan:** Mike Christie spoke about the Permanent Endowment Plan for GN. John to head a subcommittee with Hugh and Ian to look into this matter.
- h. **Meeting with City Parks & Rec. Dept:** Dave suggested and Board agreed that a follow up meeting was not needed at this point.
- i. **Staff Benefits:** Everything is in place and benefits commenced June 1st.
- j. **Signing Officers for GN Club SERVUS bank account:** Eileen is arranging with the bank for signing of new officers Dave McKenzie and Betty Rainville.

5. Reports:

a. **Treasurer:** Eileen presented end of May statements. Total GN club: \$24,305.04. IP: \$50,961.01. Eileen reported that Form T3010 Registered Charities Information Return needs updated Board information for 2014. Discussion regarding possibly putting \$10,000.00 of the \$24,000 GN Club into a business account with SERVUS. Motion. CARRIED

b. Hugh moved that the signing officers of the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists, at the TD Canada Trust, Downtown Branch, Medicine Hat AB, be Dave McKenzie as GN President (replacing Anne Bernhardt); John Slater as Chairperson of the MHIP (replacing Gary Martin); Bob Townsend remaining as Vice-Chair of MHIP; and Corlaine Gardner remaining as Chief Interpreter. All cheques written for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists, Medicine Hat Interpretive Program, must be signed by any two of the above identified individuals. Seconded. CARRIED.

c. **Membership:** Eileen reported GN has 79 memberships. Notice will go out to the members who have not renewed.

d. Correspondence: Newsletter from Nature Calgary.

e. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** John reported on yesterday’s meeting and draft budget submitted to GN Board and Budget Committee. Five voting members are John Slater (chair), Bob

Townsend (Vice-chair), Lorine Marshall, Elaine Spitzer and Vicky Fanous plus Dave McKenzie Ex-officio (GN President). Four non-voting members are Corlaine Gardner (Chief Interpreter), Eileen Cowtan (Treasurer), Randy Taves (City Parks & Rec. Dept Rep) and Anne Bernhardt (Secretary).

f. **Issues Committee:** John reported on the Baby's Breath/noxious weed project in Ranchlands (see item 4.e above), and the recent committee meeting May 4th concerning the Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference in Saskatoon, Feb 2016. John encourages two GN members attend the conference. Additional budget required will be submitted.

g. **Indoor Program:** there will be no speaker for the June 23rd Potluck, starting at 6pm. Details in the June Chronicle. For Sept 22, Swift Fox presentation; Oct 27, Migrating Birds.

h. **Fundraising:** Hugh reported the Birding Trails project will be looking for grants in about a year's time; possibly MH Tourism. The project will be developed on a website before publishing a brochure. Butterfly and Wildflower pamphlets to cost \$3,000 to \$6,000. Casino date will be known by Aug 2015.

i. **Field Trips:** Gary reported update: Great Sand Hills trip June 6; Cypress Hills Bird Count also June 6; Butterfly Outing June 27 with Dave; Bow Island Rattlesnake tour possibly July 4 with Gary. Check June Chronicle for details.

6. Other Business

- a. **Standing Committees:** to meet to select chairpersons and draft annual budgets.
- b. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Moved that the five voting committee members (see item 5.e. above) be appointed. Seconded. CARRIED
- c. **Project Committees:** Bird Tales – Dee Armstrong (chair) and Birding Trails – Phil Horch (chair) to meet and draft project scope and budgets.
- d. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil met with Milt Spitzer and Paul Thibault to discuss write up and maps. Another meeting is planned to continue progress with the project.
- e. Pamphlets on **Butterflies and Wildflowers:** For Butterflies, resource person John Acorn is coming to MH in July, and GN member Jan Scott has offered to help with the project. On the Field Trip June 27, just initial count planned. Martha away so no report on Wildflower pamphlet.
- f. **GN 30th Anniversary Celebration:** Discussed holding special celebration at General Meeting on Sept 22. Eileen and Angela offered to form subcommittee to plan the event. Suggested cake, wiener roast and/or potluck, and present another Lifetime Membership.

7. Next Board Meeting Tuesday, Sept 1st at Betty Rainville's home, 6:30pm, 15 McNeely Court SE.

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm. Refreshments followed.