

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting, June 6, 2017

Host – Anne Bernhardt.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (President), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt, Gary Martin
Absent: Dave McKenzie, John Slater (Guest) sent reports from Issues Committee and MHIP Operations Committee

1. Call to Order: 6:42 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from May 2, 2017. CARRIED.
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **World Environment Day, June 5-** Will GN send relevant photos in?
 - b. **BioBlitz, June 10- PPPark 1:30** Dragonflies and Friends.
 - c. **GN MH City Project initial survey March 29-** Tree wrapping tomorrow 9 am at the "Y". We now have 300 more feet of wire. 55 trees were wrapped last Friday. 230 trees have been wrapped so far.
-Hugh noted the City wants to rototill between the 2 PPPark parking lots and wants GN to plant seeds. Corlaine will contact Doug Knowles.
 - d. **Butterfly Count Cypress Hills, July 4** – There is no update on this. Contact Dave McKenzie if you will attend.
 - e. **Policy on length of time before AGM Minute approval.** Only yearly? - Hugh reported that Paul Thibault said there is nothing specific in our bylaws about this. It would require one month notice to our members, in the Sagebrush Chronicle. This topic will be tabled until September, 2017.
 - f. **Select/Confirm External Organization Representatives:** SEAWA- Hugh and Martha Munz Gue will be in contact about Martha being a GN representative.
 - g. **M.H.College Faculty Association Donation for Silent Auction update-** We are to respond to them by June 22, 2017. Suggestions were made for gift baskets of Nature Centre Coffee, Rack Cards, stuffies, books and more. Angela Turner will see about putting 2 gift baskets together for a total of \$100.00.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Casino List of Volunteers** –It seems that Dave McKenzie has enough volunteers to cover positions in the upcoming Casino. Contact Dave if you know of any extra volunteers.
 - b. **MH Accommodation Association March 9 rescheduled-** This meeting is on hold for now. There is a delay regarding the Bird Trails Guide Booklet.
 - c. **June Potluck:** 2 people are needed to set up and take down tables and seating arrangements. Ian and Angela Turner, and Hugh Armstrong said they would be available to help.
 - d. **Butterfly Trip Dates** – June 24 &25 to Pinhorn Grazing and Del Bonita. Dave will put these dates in the June Chronicle.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report-** Eileen reported there is now \$10,044.36 in the Casino Account after \$4,000.00 was dispersed. She said one GIC, which matures on June 8, will be combined with a second one and put into a cashable GIC.
 - b. **Membership-** Eileen noted there is not a definite number yet. She noted that occasional members reported they did not receive their Sagebrush Chronicle on line. Perhaps they need to check their drafts or junk box.
It was suggested that a personal call could be made to members who haven't renewed their membership. New members should continue to be welcomed in the Chronicle each month. The idea of name tags was suggested.
 - c. **Correspondence-** Eileen reported there was no significant mail other than River Current and Wildlands Advocate.
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee Report-** John Slater sent a written report for the Board meeting tonight:
 1. Last meeting May 1st; next meeting scheduled for Oct.23
 2. Carol O'Brian joined the committee. Thanks Carol
 - 3 .Renewal of city contract for Jan.1st 2018: Scott is discussing with Corlaine about the list of City Equipment. Contract should be ready for signing by the fall.
 4. Renovations of Nature Centre: Many thanks to Hugh for Fund Raising: 4 Grants received. Design details are being completed so work should start late summer/early fall and be completed by March 2018 before Easter Festival. Alternative locations mentioned such as Heritage Pavilion in Strathcona Island Park or Kin Coulee Park.
 5. With Success of using the Shuttle buses the Parks Department may offer similar arrangements for the next major events such as the Fall Festival, Christmas Hay Ride, and Family Weekend.
 6. Parks Department are planning to trim the trees and bushes along the main road to the Nature Centre and in the Parking Lots, to provide better visibility and parking.

7. MHIP Bookkeeping jointly being shared by Lisa and Eileen. New Simple Accounting software to be purchased for both to simplify bookkeeping, and sharing financial information.
8. Trial Map: City has recently updated and produced new heritage Trail Network Map. Available at the Tourist Centre and Pop-up Tourism Kiosk.
- e **Issues Committee Report-** John sent the following written report:
1. Last meeting on May 11th.
 2. Wildflower brochure: waiting to hear from Judith Golub about draft. We are finalizing the design of the Wildflower Rack Card.
 3. Martha and Tina meeting to summarize the current MDP Environmental issues. Then we will meet to discuss what further recommendations we can offer.
 4. Parks Department Project with GN: Identified location of Beaver Lodges from MH Public Library to Strathcona Island Park. Wrapped 170 trees from Library to Maple Ave. Bridge. Plan to complete wrapping trees from bridge to "Y". Will then switch to Strathcona Island Park to wrap trees as well as flag/GPS Leafy Spurge so Parks Department can spray.
 - 5 Baby's Breath: Dave has flagged over 500 plants in Brier Run so Parks Department can spray. Still need to flag further plants directly south of FLC and Methanex Bowl.
 - 6 Baby's Breath: John dug 190 plants near entrance to PPP.
 - 7 John dug 77 plants along NECH Path.
 - 8 Baby's Breath: John flagging/digging plants along SE Hill Path.
 - 9 Environment Day/Week: 5-10 June; Martha and John led a walk from the Teepee this morning to identify wildflowers, and Dave identified butterflies.
 - 10 Ranchlands Phase 2F&G: Invasive Weed Control: City LABS Department may ask for GN input to discussions and City Contractor.
- f **Indoor Committee-** No June speaker- potluck will be held instead. This will be noted in the June Chronicle. There is a speaker booked for September and October 2017.
- g **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported an important announcement from South Country Co-op and GN would be made public on June 15 at PPP between 11 am to 2 pm. The presentation will be made at 11:30 am. Snacks and drinks will be available. Please attend and bring friends.
- h. **Field Trip Updates-** Gary reported the following;
 On June 13 two trips will be held. One to Murray/ Sauder Reservoirs (Eileen will contact Milt)
 And the second led by Gary to Riverside Park, Redcliff.
 July 21, 22 and 23 Gary will lead a group in Val Marie to Grassland National Park.
 August 12 a canoe trip goes from Echodale to Strathcona Island Park.
 August 26 is a Tour of Blackfoot Crossing led by Gary. Meet at the Tipi.
 August 21 Solar Eclipse- Angela Turner
- i. **Communications Committee** – Angela reported that a GN table was set up May 27 and June 3 at the Farmer's Market to promote Grasslands Naturalists. Ian and Angela supervised on the 27th and Elaine and Wendy volunteered on the 3rd. There will be one more table display on September 16.
 Angela will order more rack cards.
- j. **Birding Trails Project Update- Canadian Badlands Association-** Hugh noted more rack cards are wanted for distribution.
 The CBA wants GN to put in \$3,000.00, in hours. Chris will contact the Board about "work in kind".
 Phil Horch will be back on June 8th. Phil, Paul and Milt are working on the front and back cover of the Birding Trails booklet.
- k. **Bird Tales Update-**Hugh reported Dee and Paul are finished for the summer at Meadow Lands. They have been asked to set up a program at a new facility in the fall.
- l. **Nature Alberta-** No report. GN paid for a \$35.00 membership to Nature Alberta.
6. Other Business:
- a. **CFEP Grant:** The Board discussed the Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) Grant Funding agreement. It has been referred to the City and solicitors for review.
 - b. **Web Cam Project and Update-**Hugh noted the project is on hold until fall. The Web Cam will be started again at that time.
 - c. **Spring Bird and Flower Count-** Angela and Ian commented on the pleasant temperature during the count on May 28th.
 - d. **Bird Watching Tours to Canadian Badlands and SE Alberta-** Hugh reported GN will not be doing anything on this topic until after summer. The Canadian Badlands AGM will be held here in Medicine Hat in March 2018.
 - e. **Civic Environmental Recognition Award-** Congratulations to John Slater for winning this prestigious award for his leadership and support. Martha has sent an article to the Chronicle for publishing.

- f. **Next Year's AGM-** This will be discussed after the summer. It may not be held at the Nature Centre because of possible construction.
- g. **Potential MOU/Partnership between GN and SEAWA and/or Praxis-** Hugh reported he would look at this possible partnership in the fall when Cathy Linowski is back. SEAWA's 10th AGM will be held on June 8th in the Crowfoot Room at the MH College.
- h. **Next Board Meeting-** Tuesday, September 5 at Eileen's home.
- i. **Adjournment-**8:22 pm