

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING – March 1, 2016

Host- Eileen Cowtan

Present: Dave McKenzie (chair), Hugh Armstrong (Vice -Chair), Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt (acting Sec), Gary Martin, and Eileen Cowtan (Treasurer). Absent- Betty Rainville. Guest John Slater

1. Call to Order: 6:30 pm. Dave McKenzie – Chair, Anne – Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from February 2nd, 2016. Motion. Carried.
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. Brier Park Run open house-Med Hat Leisure Centre
 - b. Board Training Sessions- E. Cowtan
4. Action Items:
 - a. **City Contract** with revised list of Equipment Schedule B. -On going.
 - b. **GN/MHIP Insurance Coverage**: As 4(a) above, Ongoing.
 - c. **Bird Tales update**: Meadow Ridge project is progressing. It is hoped that a horticultural garden aspect can be included in the solarium facility. They are requesting funding from various organizations.
 - d. **Changes to Signing Officers**: To be done after the AGM.
 - e. **GN AGM**: March 22nd , 2016 at 6:30 pm for elections. Location MHPL. Program at 7:00
 - f. Environmental Awareness Course: Sean Allen- Thursday, March 3rd and March 10th -6pm to 9 pm.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report**: Eileen passed "draft one" of the MHIP and GN balance sheets and will have the final reports for the March 22nd AGM.
 - b. **Membership Report**: Eileen reported the memberships are slowly coming in.
 - c. **Correspondence**: none.
 - d. **Fund Raising Committee update**: Gary reported that we should be getting the Casino funds in April or May.
 - e. **Field Trip update**: Dave and Martha Munz-Gue to set up a transect walk along McCutcheon Drive NW and Martha a walk in Marlborough Coulee. Garry planning a field trip to a member's ranch.
 - f. **Indoor Program Speakers**:
March 22/16 Scott Murphy – MHPL
Need to finalize speakers for April and May
Members who attended Ecotrust & PCES conferences should report to members GN.
GN Needs to have display material & board developed for trade shows, programs etc. (Duty of Communication Committee).
 - g. **Issues Committee**: John:
Martha to write article on Ecotrust for Chronicle.(???)
 - h. **MHIP Operations Committee**: Volunteer
Volunteers are needed for the Easter program. Eileen offered to email GN members.
Seedy Sat. March 5, 2016 at Nature Centre. (Corlaine wants to know if GN wants to be involved).
6. New Business:
 - a. **Life-Time membership award** to be presented at AGM on March 22/16. MOTION – Eileen Cowtan moved that Martha Gue be nominated for 2016 Life-Time membership for G.N. Seconded by Angela. Carried.

b. **Agenda for AGM:**

President Dave McKenzie will give a verbal overview of GN. Each committee chair to submit annual report to Paul Thibault for GN website before March 10, 2016. Angela Turner will phone all chairs.

c. **AGM Nominations:** Still need a Vice-Chair. Will call for nominations from the floor.

7. Other Business:

a. **Pamphlet on Wildflowers:** Martha Gue has declined from doing the pamphlet.

b. **Pamphlet on Butterflies:** Dave McKenzie will write articles for the Chronicle.

c. **Nature Alberta representative:** Gary Martin will be GN rep for NA. Next meeting April 2, 2016 in Edmonton.

d. **Tree Planting Project:** no report from Dave Genio with the Parks Dept.

8. Next GN Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 6:30p.m. at Hugh Armstrong's house.

9. Budget & Governance Committees: Will meet on March 15, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at Hugh Armstrong's.

10. Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm. Refreshments followed.