

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING - MARCH 5, 2015

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Hugh Armstrong, Eileen Cowtan, John Slater (host), Bill Knibbs

1. **Call to Order:** 6:45 pm. President Anne in the chair, John acting as secretary.
2. **Minutes** of Feb 5, 2015 Board meeting were adopted. Motion CARRIED.
3. **Action Items**
 - a) List of equipment on City contract: Hugh offered to meet with the Operations Committee and Corlaine Gardner in late April to help revise the list.
 - b) "Bird Tales" project - Hugh: Meeting held at Masterpiece Corp and feeders installed with supplies. Program started now to attract birds. Response to grant applications likely in June. Hope to do similar project at one or two more senior's facilities this year. More details to be reported at AGM.
 - c) "Caught in the Spin" book to be available for distribution at the AGM (Hugh).
 - d) February Indoor program "Swift Fox" was well received. Anne to send letter of appreciation to Calgary Zoo for providing the two speakers.
 - e) Baby's Breath project - John: The City is interested in continuing the project so Sean Allen has been asked to draft a proposal. Calfrac may know by mid April whether some employees are available again this May to remove plants.
 - f) Environmental Civic Recognition Award: John has spoken with Cathy Linowski to write and submit the application to nominate Sean Allen. GN to provide a Letter of Support.
 - g) Anne will contact MH Community Foundation to initiate an Endowment Plan for GN.

4. Reports:

- a) **TREASURER:** Eileen presented end of February statements. Total GN Club \$22,698.83; Interpretive Program \$85,995.62. Also the combined GN and IP statements for 2014 together with multi-year historic summaries were reviewed for presenting at the AGM.
- b) **Membership:** Eileen reported GN has 99 memberships. Renewals still being received.
- c) **Correspondence:** Eileen handed out various journals and newsletters.
- d) **ISSUES COMMITTEE:** John reported the events planned for the World Water Week. Details to appear in the March Chronicle. Next committee meeting scheduled for March 14.
- e) **FUND RAISING COMMITTEE –** Hugh: Coop receipts to be given to Anne or at Nature Centre. Hugh to confirm with AGLC for use of casino revenue to support the ongoing IP program.
- f) **IP OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** Anne and Gary Martin (chair with the Operations Committee) will arrange a meeting with Randy Taves and Todd Sharpe, General Manager, City Parks & Recreation Dept to discuss funding.

5. Other Business

- a) MH College ETOL students conducted Young Explorers Day event March 1st afternoon. The outdoor activities were great and enjoyed by 4 families with 7 children.

- b) Pamphlet on Wildflowers – Martha Munz Gue: Cathy Linowski will help select relevant flowers and draft the pamphlet, which will initially be available on the GN website.
Pamphlet on Butterflies - Dave McKenzie: Anne was told that local species are being affected by climate change; therefore, selection of species for pamphlet should be made with input from experts. Pamphlet to be available on GN website for review.
 - c) Staff Benefit Plan: John presented information and quotes received from OASSIS for discussion. It was recommended the information be forwarded to the GN Budget Committee for analysis as well as to the Operations Committee for review with the IP employees.
 - d) “Birding Trails” project: Milt Spitzer has distributed emails with input from Lloyd Bennett and revision of the written text. Paul Thibault has developed maps. Further progress is awaiting Phil Horch return in April.
 - e) AGM Tuesday March 24th: MH College Crowfoot Room starting at 6:30pm, and guest speaker’s presentation “Elk Management Cypress Hills” at 8:00pm. Gary and John to finalize the arrangements.
 - f) AGM Nominations: Bill presented a tentative slate for the Executive and Directors, as well as members who are interested to be on various committees. Elections will take place at the AGM.
 - g) Appointments to committees: Motions were made which will be brought forward to the AGM and/or next Board meeting to fill the vacancies.
 - h) Draft agenda for AGM: Anne would like to have all committee reports available for the AGM as well as posted on the GN website, but only a few selected reports would be presented at the AGM to save time.
 - i) Lifetime membership award: Motion passed to present Lifetime Membership awards to Mike O’Shea and Eileen Cowtan in honour of the long-time contribution they have made to GN. Other Lifetime membership awards may be made during the year to mark the 30th Anniversary of the GN Club.
6. Next Board Meeting: tentatively Tuesday April 7, 2015 6:30 pm at Hugh’s house.
7. Meeting adjourned: 9:05pm, followed by refreshments.