

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting, May 2, 2017
Host- Ian and Angela Turner, 188 Ranchman Cresc. N.E.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (chair), Betty Rainville (secretary), Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt
Gary Martin arrived later. Guest-John Slater arrived later.
Absent: Dave McKenzie, Eileen Cowtan

1. Call to Order: 6:40 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from April 4. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Saskatchewan Prairie Conservation Action Plan Webinars:** April 26 at 12 pm, May 3 at 12 pm.
 - b. **GN/MH City Project Initial Survey March 29:** More tree wrapping will be done tomorrow, May 3 at 9:30 am along River Road. Last Saturday, April 29, the local Geocache Club SEARCH wrapped 47 trees. Perhaps Cadets might be encouraged to help.
 - c. **Policy on Length of Time re. AGM Minutes Approval:** Only yearly?
Paul Thibault will look into the issue of length of time for AGM Minutes to be approved.
Hugh checked Robert's Rules for guidelines.
 - d. **Select/Confirm External Organization Representatives:**
 - (1) SEAWA- Has Martha agreed to act as rep. for GN? Hugh will check with Martha.
 - e. **MHC Faculty Association Donation for Silent Auction Update:** This auction will be held in September.
To contact the Association this June.
4. Action Items/Business Arising from Previous Minutes:
 - a. **Casino Volunteers list due when?** Hugh requested that volunteers get their names in to Dave. He needs to have the list 60 days prior to the Casino.
 - b. **MH Accommodation Association March 9 reschedule:** Phil Horch is back but is very busy right now. He might be available to speak to the association in June. The Birding Trail and GN Rack cards are currently in all local hotels.
 - c. **GN AGM, March 28:** Committee Reports In? All reports are online.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen absent. MHIP balance as of May 1 is \$68,678.36
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen away. 8 memberships were renewed and 1 new member signed up.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen away. Received an invitation to join Nature Alberta for \$35.00
 - d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** John reported the Committee met yesterday May 1, for the second time this year. There was full attendance, and Scott from Parks and Recreation attended.
The City contract with MHIP terminates the end of the calendar year. Scott and Corlaine will discuss the contract.
The City is to produce a new, shorter list of City equipment. It will show the replacement value of equipment.
PP Park had excellent results with traffic over the Easter festivities. John said the Parking Managers worked out well.
The Fall Festival on October 1 will have city buses running.
Plans for renovations to the Nature Centre will likely be finalized in June, John reported. Access and safety are important during the construction phase.
Corlaine has 2 students helping this summer.
John spoke about the new Koffee Klatch events, where free samples of shade-grown coffee may be enjoyed at the Nature Centre. This will take place from 2:00-4:00 pm on May 14, 21 and 28.
Enjoy Vitamin "N" for Nature in a walk on May 6 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Police Point Park.
The Early Spring Blooms Wildflower Walk takes place on May 7 at 2 pm. at the Nature Centre.
Then on May 21 the Wetland Duck Launch takes place in Kin Coulee at 2:00 pm.
 - e. **Issues Committee Report:** John reported the committee is meeting for its second meeting this year on May 11 at 9:30 am. He said Martha Munz Gue met with Judith in Edmonton over Easter to work on the Wildflower Brochure.
Dwayne and John will talk to Paul Thibault about putting the Wildflower information on a website along with the list.
The Committee wants to produce possibly a few hundred rack cards similar to the Birding Trails and GN rack cards.
John noted the upcoming May Bird and Wildflower Count results will be put on the website.
It was noted that there are some differences in the Accounting versions used by Eileen Cowtan and Lisa McMow.
Moved that we invest in two new versions of Simple Accounting that agree. **CARRIED** The Casino account may purchase it.
 - f. **Indoor Committee:** Dustin Zdan will be speaking at the May General meeting on Operation Pollination Program as it develops at the Connaught Golf Course.
 - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported that the fund raising application to Co-op was successful.

He went over the Use of Proceeds List from Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission to clarify accepted expenditures of the income received from the operation of the casino held February 2016.

- h. **Field Trip Updates:** John led the walk along Seven Persons Creek to Saamis Park which took place this morning at 10:30 am.

He listed the following upcoming trips:

May 6, Field Trip to Wildhorse Area led by Milt Spitzer.

May 9, walk around the NE Stormwater Retention Ponds led by Elaine Spitzer.

May 13, Phil Horch will be leading the Annual Field Trip to Sauder's/Murray Reservoir.

Please watch the Sagebrush Chronicle for possible changes to upcoming Field Trips. John noted that accommodation is filling up for the Waterton Wildflower Festival from June 15 to June 20.

- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela said there will be a GN table set up at the Farmer's Market on May 27, June 3, and September 16. Volunteers are needed to sit at the table from 9 am to 1 pm. This notice will be put in the Chronicle. Angela will send out the contact information for chairpersons to appear in the May Chronicle. Another form of advertising, MedHat Active, would make our organization's event information available to the public via the website.
- j. **Birding Trails Project Update-** Hugh reported Chris McLellan will attend a meeting May 17 at 2 pm. The \$12,000.00 grant to the B.T. Project was approved. Moved Approval in Principle depending on negotiations by Phil Horch with Chris McLellan of Canadian Badlands Association as to the definition of matching amounts of 25% of \$12,000. CARRIED To send to Paul as Budget Chair.
- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported for Dee Armstrong that the project is working well at Meadow Ridge. 50 more wooden comfort birds were made for residents at the former Masterpiece Retirement facility.
- l. **Nature Alberta Meeting March 25 Report:** Gary Absent.

6. Other Business:

- a. **Webcam Project and Update:** Hugh reported this project is on hold for now. The webcam is down but will be put up in the fall of 2017. There have been approximately 1,520 visits to the GN Webcam site. Next week Hugh plans to make a 6:30 am visit to look at the Heron nesting site.
- b. **Monthly Endowment Fund notice in the Chronicle:** Hugh has asked Milt Spitzer to place a monthly reminder in the Chronicle about the fund that has been set up by GN with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta.
- c. **Bird Watching Tours to Cdn. Badlands and SE Alberta:** Hugh contacted Lonna Hogan. Next year the Association will be holding their AGM in our area. Corlaine Gardner will be contacted after the summer.
- d. **Civic Environment Recognition Award-May 25:** GN members are asked to arrive at the Esplanade by 6:30 pm to show support of John Slater receiving this award. There will be photos and refreshments after the award ceremony.
- e. **Next Year's AGM:** This will be held on March 27, 2018 but possibly not at the Nature Centre if renovations are not completed by that time.
- f. **Potential MOU/Partnership** between GN and SEAWA and/or Praxis: Hugh reported we are waiting to hear from Cathy Linowski on the subject.
- g. **MHC Mixed Grass Forum April 6:** No representatives from GN attended the Forum this year.
- h. Next Board Meeting Location: Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30 pm at Anne Bernhard's house.
- i. Adjournment: 8:36 pm