

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting- May 3, 2016

Host – Anne Bernhardt

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Anne Bernhardt (Host), Ian and Angela Turner, Eileen Cowtan, Betty Rainville (secretary), John Slater.

Absent: Dave McKenzie, Gary Martin.

1. Call to order: 6:40 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from April 5, 2016. Motion. Carried
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **City Wide Cleanup:** Native Prairie south and west of Family Leisure Centre-Hugh. Meet at the southeast corner of the Leisure Centre Playground at 9:30 am. Lunch supplied later by the City.
 - b. Martha: Invitation for an informal visit to hear about water quality, and Bees by the David Suzuki Foundation. Eileen to speak to Martha about details.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Tree Planting Volunteers:** Hugh reported that so far, six people have signed up to take the city tree planting training 1 week before and participate in the actual planting date on June 11, 2016. More volunteers needed. See Hugh or Dave.
 - b. **Ranchlands Tiny Cryptantha Project:** John. First meeting held April 22. Aim to increase public awareness. City approved grant of \$6,000. Matching GN/IP funding \$6,000 plus in-kind contributions. Project proposal budget \$17,500. Board to consider hiring Community Consultant with funding from GN. Casino funding possible? On Thursday, May 5 at 1pm, Rob to help lead walk about Ranchlands Reserve, with Cathy L. providing information on rare species, use of spraying and mowing of invasive weeds, and archeological sites.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN balance for April 30, 2016 at \$25,310.42. Motion carried. Hugh and Dave to sign view- only access, for the Casino account on Thursday morning.
 - b. **Membership Report:** Eileen noted the June Chronicle will be the last issue for unpaid members. Get well wishes for Dennis Baresco to be put in the upcoming Chronicle.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen. Alberta Plant Council.
Reapplied GST application with Revenue Canada. To fill out the Registered Charity Information Return (T3010).
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** John.
-Meeting held April 25. Corlaine gave the Chief Interpreter's Report on staffing, programming, and a review of Easter and other major events. The report concluded by listing the 2016 goals for the MH Interpretive Program. Corlaine also handed out Tentative Schedule of Events and Displays for 2016. Public programs in May include Early Prairie Blooms May 15, and the Spring Bird and Flower Count on May 29.
-Cheque signing authority for the MHIP Bank Account to be renewed with John replacing Gary at Chair, and Bob Townsend, Corlaine Gardner and Anne Bernhardt remaining.
-The City requested input to their 2017-2026 Tangible Capital Asset Budget for upgrades to the Nature Centre and expansion of the MHIP. Corlaine will submit a wish list of large items.
-Possibly a Web cam setup in PPP: see discussion 6.a.
 - e. **Issues Committee:** John. Meeting held April 11. Draft budget. Marty completing the Riparian Health Assessment project to establish a baseline of the river. Martha is working on the Wildflowers Project, and Dave is writing articles for the Chronicle on butterflies and bees. City asking for input to Brier Run development Plan at Leisure Centre. Committee has asked Rob Gardner to write GN submission by mid-May to the City on retaining the natural prairie in the area.
 - f. **Indoor Program Report:** Dave away. Hugh reported Dominique Liboiron will be the May speaker. He travelled from Saskatchewan to New Orleans by canoe. Eileen will give a 1-year subscription of the Chronicle to Dr. Ted Pike, our last speaker. No speaker in June because of the picnic.
 - g. **Fundraiser:** Hugh. To approach various banks with educational, green initiatives such as a webcam.
 - h. **Field Trips Update:** Motion made that the Board actively pursue participation in the IP scheduled events and ensure they are in the Chronicle, on Face book, and in general emails. Carried. Also, Eileen will send out emails on the spontaneous Tuesday morning walks "Exploring our Neighbourhoods".
 - i. **Communication Committee Report:** Angela. To meet May 10, 2:30 at Angela's house. Committee is collecting pictures. Hugh will contact Sean Allen to send photographs to the committee. Paul has put out a list of MHIP You Tube videos, and Marty will put a link to the IP website. Brian Keating presents Going Wild at the Esplanade May 10. Eileen will send out an email to advertise this. Proposed budget was \$2,700. A motion was made to amend budget to \$3,000. Carried.
 - j. **Birding Trails Project Update:** Phil Horch will call a meeting.

- k. **Bird Tales Update:** Dee and Hugh. Masterpiece is doing well, but Meadow Ridge prefers to leave most of the effort initially to GN to start this month.
6. Other Business:
 - a. **Web Cam:** Hugh. Decision to start simple with bird feeders at the Nature Centre. Motion made for approval in principle of the prototype web cam project to be set up at the bird feeder center at the Nature Centre. All capital and operating costs to be determined before going ahead with proposal, and funding to be in place. Carried.
 - b. **Plaque for life members:** John. Motion made to get a plaque made up for the three most recent lifetime members for a budget of about \$60. plus GST.
 - c. **SEAWA:** Gary attended the most recent meeting to represent GN. There is a new executive director as of April 1, 2016.
 - d. **Chronicle:** The Board agreed that Milt is an excellent editor and we would like to see him remain. Keep up the good work. We need to discuss event announcements, field trips, and neighbourhood walks more before committing. Getting information to Tina in a timely manner is important. Eileen will pass messages to the Board first before sending them out to GN members. The Board agrees that the following should remain in the Chronicle:
 - Maps to bird trails
 - Monthly contributions
 - Keeping the Chronicle to 10 pages when possible
 - The last page membership renewal form
 - Layout as is
 - Photographs, if they are clear
 - President's report
 - Finally, a colour copy could be printed for public locations, and a summer Chronicle could be published only as needed.
7. Next Board Meeting June 7, 2016 at Betty's home.
8. Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm.
9. Meeting reconvened at 9:16 pm. Motion made that all Chronicles be available on line immediately to the general public. Carried
- 10 Meeting adjourned 9:20 pm. Refreshments served