

(Draft) SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting, October 3, 2017
Host-Betty Rainville

Present: Anne Bernhard (Acting Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner.
Absent: Hugh Armstrong (President), Dave McKenzie

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm
2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from September 5, 2017. CARRIED
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. Two days volunteering at Casino completed. A special thank you to Dave McKenzie for co-ordinating the event, and to the GN members who volunteered their time.
 - b. Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup – Led by Wendy Blackwell on September 30th. Thanks to Wendy and the volunteers who participated. A reporter from Medicine Hat News was on-site for part of the event.
 - c. Fall Festival held October 1st at Police Point Park. Lisa Bey thanked all volunteers who helped at the festival. She said attendance was lower than usual with about 300 people taking part.
 - d. Discovering Didymo Distribution-Sampling kits from Trout Unlimited. Would this be useful at MHIP? **To ask Corlaine.** Board members suggested Scouts or Forest Wardens might be interested in this project. There is a video available.
 - e. SEAWA Forum. Nov.2, 8 am to 2 pm at Medicine Hat Lodge. Does Marty have the Riparian Display available for that day? Angela Turner said she could possibly attend and set up a table. She will contact Marty Drut. Eileen may also be able to attend.
 - f. EURAB- Looking for GN submissions for park names using local people. Members are to submit a paragraph suggesting a park, and reasons for the name choice. **Send choices to Dave McKenzie.** One Board member said Donna McLean and Dennis Baresco were two suggestions put forward by a GN member. The Board questioned if successful applicants are expected to pay for any part of this project. To ask **Dave McKenzie** for details.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **5 positions need to be filled** by GN members: Board Member, Nature Alberta rep, SEAWA rep, Indoor Speaker (after May), Field Trip Chair. Angela Turner will speak to Martha to see what being a GN rep to Nature Alberta entails.
 - b. **Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)** - This topic came up at the last General meeting. Eileen noted that FOIP involves public bodies, while PIPA applies to a non- profit organization in a limited way-regarding commercial activities. Eileen is working on this She will consult with Paul Thibault.
 - c. **City Capital Budget Project Sheet** to fill out and send to Maureen Mudry, Manager of Parks Planning and Development by October 20th 2017. (re email from Emma Dies). Hugh Armstrong (absent) had requested that a project sheet be filled out for each project suggested (.i.e. Goats and sheep for invasive plants, solar and wind power projects etc.), even though it is too soon to make up budgets for the projects. The Board members discussed project ideas presented and liked all of them. In conclusion though, the Board felt adequate information needed to fill out a formal request for City capital funding at tonight's meeting was lacking. They questioned what "partnership" meant in the context of Community Partnership Projects, and "partnering with the City". Would there be legal or financial obligations to Grasslands Naturalists?
 - d. **Municipal Development Plan**-GN member needed to attend the meeting with R. Sissons and SEAWA on October 5 at 10 am, possibly at SEAWA office, regarding Integrating Riparian Health into MDP. Tina Regehr and Martha Munz Gue will be attending.
 - e. **Committee Budgets** to Paul Thibault by November 1 please.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN balance for the end of September was \$23,673.91. The Casino Advisor expense was \$1,470.00 and Casino revenue was \$1,718.65.
There will be Casino training on October 17, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Clarion Hotel. Eileen Cowtan, Angela Turner and Anne Bernhardt will be attending.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen noted there are a few new members. Membership stands at 80.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen received correspondence on Gaming Information for Charitable Groups.
 - d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report-** Next meeting October 23rd. Hugh reported by email that the projected budget for The Nature Centre renovations will be \$900,000.00 or more, without any expansion factored in. They are only a week behind schedule and still hope to be finished by June 2018.
 - e. **Indoor Speaker-** Wendy Nuttall, Photographer, is booked as October General Meeting speaker.

- f. **Fund Raising Committee**- Hugh Armstrong is away. A possible \$1,000.00 is still expected from Walmart.
- g. **Field Trip Updates**- New appointment needed to replace Gary Martin.
 - Oct.8 Annual Migratory Birding Trip to Many Islands Lake. Ben Velner leader. Meet at the Bingo Hall, Bridge St. 8 am.
 - Oct.14 Backyard Birding, 2 pm Nature Centre, with Lisa Bey
 - Oct. 21 Beavers, Police Point Park. 5:30 pm. See signs re. meet up location.
- h. **Communication Committee**- Angela Turner thanked Anne Bernhardt and Eileen Cowtan for supervising a GN display table at the Farmer's Market.
 - Angela picked up supplies for the 2 baskets to be donated to the MHC Faculty Association event for College students.
 - Eileen will make up certificates, for free GN memberships, to take to the Nature Centre by next week for the baskets.
- i. **Birding Trails Project Update**-motion from September 5 Board Meeting was approved at the General Meeting September 26.
- j. **Bird Tales Update**- no change
- k. **Nature Alberta**- nothing to add

6. Other Business:

- a. **Library room available for AGM**- Anne Bernhardt has booked the Honour Currie room at the MH Public Library for the AGM in 2018.
- b. **Webinar shown Sept.27** on Greater Sage Grouse Conservation on Montana's Working Land (PCAP). John Slater emailed information to GN members. This may be seen now on PCAP YouTube.
- c. **Next Board Meeting** Tuesday, November 7 at Ian & Angela's house, 188 Ranchman Cres NE
- d. **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:20 pm