

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING- October 6, 2015

Present: Dave McKenzie, Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, John Slater, Ian and Angela Turner (hosts), Betty Rainville.

Absent- Hugh Armstrong, Anne Bernhardt.

1. Call to Order: 6:48 pm. President Dave - Chair, Betty – Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board minutes from September 1, 2015. Motion Carried.
3. Additions to Agenda.
4. Action Items
 - a. City Contract amendment with revised list of Equipment Schedule “B” and Clause 4(c). Still outstanding. Waiting on Randy Taves with the City.
 - b. GN/MHIP Insurance coverage: John had suggested a subcommittee be formed to continue discussion of replacement costs of City’s equipment and GN/MHIP equipment. This still needs to be done but 4.a (above) needs to be completed first.
 - c. Bird Tales update: John. Article requesting volunteers was put in the September Chronicle. Note that volunteers are not needed every Thursday. Even 1 Thursday per month. Contact Dee to volunteer. Dave sent an email to Hugh about ordering a set of “Nature Nut”. Milt took bluebird boxes to the last visit, and Phil brought a Loon picture and wooden model for resident hands-on appreciation.
 - d. Book “Caught in the Spin”: Dave will email Martha in Edmonton to contact Mike to confirm the number of books in N.A. office. Do not have Mike’s new email address.
 - e. M.H. Community Foundation Endowment Plan: Moved that the Board invest \$100.00 into the Fund and that Dave and Anne go in and arrange to sign the agreement. Carried. Dave will talk to Anne about asking Mike to write an article in the Chronicle.
Suggestion that GN inquire how to be part of the List of Worthy Charities for Memorial Contributions on the Announcement page of the M.H. News.
M.H Community Foundation holds their 2015 Launch Lunch on October 8. Suggested previously that 1 or 2 GN members attend.
 - f. Policies and Procedures: available in a red folder at the Nature Centre and on the GN website.
 - g. GN Board meeting minutes: Agreed that Board meetings remain on every first Tuesday rather than being moved to every second Tuesday. Minutes available on GN website and in a binder at the Nature Centre. Dave to ask Milt about the electronic copy.
 - h. Changes to Signing Officers for MHIP at the TD Account update: Dave and John can contact the bank now to set up a time to go in.
 - i. Budget Fiscal year changes to Calendar year: No objections raised at GN General meeting. Done.
 - j. MHIP Fall Festival report: Held Sunday, September 27 with GN 30th Anniversary Celebrations enjoyed by approximately 800 people. Anne purchased a cake. Several GN members volunteered. Betty to call Jim to ask event pictures be sent to Milt.
5. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer : Eileen presented end of September statements. Total GN club: \$30,058.63. IP: \$84,606.13. Requested and agreed that treasurer present an historical summary budget for the GN Club as well as the MHIP 2 times per year. Eileen reported \$77.35 was received from MH Co-op refund program. Dave noted that receipt donors must be members of GN to contribute.
Noted that GN members appreciated the “History of Grasslands Naturalists” article by Eileen in the September Chronicle. Eileen to talk to Paul about putting this article on the GN website.
 - b. Membership: Eileen reported that invitations were sent to lapsed members inviting them to the Fall Festival on September 27, 2015.
 - c. Correspondence: copy of the River Current from Partners for the Saskatchewan River Basin, Nature Alberta summer issue, and a letter from Honourable Robert Wanner ,
MLA, commending GN for being selected as an Alberta Culture Days 2015 Celebration Site.

- d. Fund Raising Committee update: Hugh absent. Gary to talk to a Casino representative and to open a bank account. Eileen Cowtan moved that the signing officers for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists-Casino account at the SERVUS CREDIT UNION, Downtown Branch, Medicine Hat AB, be Dave McKenzie as President, Eileen Cowtan as Treasurer and Gary Martin as Casino manager. All cheques written for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists must be signed by any two of the above identified individuals. Carried. Gary to place an article in the Chronicle requesting volunteers, as well as a request at the next GN General Meeting in October. Requested that Gary and Hugh give suggestions regarding what Casino funds will be used for. A previous request by Rob that Casino funds might be put into the Community Endowment Fund. Another suggestion: that some Casino proceeds be used to send members to conferences.
 - e. Field Trip update: Gary . 8 people attended Phil's walk on September 26. Very wet weather prevented the October 3 Field Trip from going ahead. No upcoming Field Trips are listed at present.
 - f. Indoor Program speakers: Dave. Jan Scott will be speaking about Monarch Butterflies for the October presentation. Joel Nicholson will be speaking on Sage – Grouse Count in November. Moved that speakers at GN General meetings be given 1 year complimentary membership. Carried.
 - g. Issues Committee: John. 14,700 Baby's Breath plants were bagged and taken to the Landfill. An article to go into the Chronicle. Lisa and Cathi Linowski will be working on a project on Baby's Breath seed germination. GN members encouraged to attend 'Change the Climate' put on by Alberta Ecotrust Foundation Nov.12-14 in Calgary. There is funding for registration coverage for 2 people, or only 1 person registering would get assistance with meals and lodging. Also, Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species conference will be held on February 16, 17, and 18 in Saskatoon. A budget for attending this is yet to be determined.
 - h. Medicine Hat Operations Committee report: Meeting was held October 5, 2015. The MHIP Tentative budget 2016 was approved at the MHIP Operations Committee and presented and accepted at the GN Board meeting October 6. After the City Contract Funding for 2016 has been set, this budget may be updated for the next MHIP Operations Committee meeting on January 18, 2016. Corlaine gave the Chief Interpreter's Report which included grants received this year. Eileen will ask for an abridged form of this report. The contract for position of Chief Interpreter was renewed for the year 2016. Corlaine is continuing to search for a replacement for the Financial Bookkeeper for the MHIP.
 - i. Birding Trails project update: Meeting held October 6 afternoon. Next meeting is scheduled for October 29. There are 17 different trails with a write-up and map of each area. An article will be placed in the Chronicle sometime after October. Suggested that someone in this group could do a presentation at a GN General meeting.
6. Other Business:
- a. Pamphlets on Wildflowers and Butterflies: Martha absent. Suggestion to gradually establish a data base for butterfly counts. Possibly in May 2016 Dave could do a presentation on Butterflies. Suggested that two speakers might split the May presentation.
 - b. Donation: Suggested that donors be phoned to ask if they would like their donation earmarked for a particular cause. Next a follow-up letter of appreciation could be sent. This idea to be sent to the Governance Committee.
 - c. Plaque and Nomination of further Honorary Life-Time members: John. Suggested that members be encouraged to nominate someone then bring their ideas to the Board. Suggested the Governance Committee to put together a Policy on this.
7. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at _____ house at 6:30 pm.
8. Meeting Adjourned: at 9:20 pm. Refreshments followed.