

## **SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING-September 1, 2015 (Revised )**

**Present:** Dave McKenzie, Anne Bernhardt, Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, Ian and Angela Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Betty Rainville (host). absent John Slater

**1. Call to Order:** 6:40 pm. President Dave - chair, Betty - Secretary

**2. Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 2, 2015 meeting. Motion CARRIED

### **3. Action Items**

- a. City contract list of equipment update: Corlaine met with Randy Taves about the revised list of equipment, and it is acceptable to the City Parks and Rec. Dept. Both sides are happy with the list.
- b. For the GN/MHIP Insurance coverage: John suggested in an email sent August 19, 2015 that a subcommittee be formed to continue discussion of replacement costs.
- c. Bird Tales update: About four volunteers are needed to help Paul Thibault and Dee Armstrong two Thursdays/ month from 1:30 to 3 pm. Phone Dee to volunteer. An article needs to go into the September Chronicle and to be brought up at the September General meeting.
- d. Book "Caught in the Spin": Martha is to contact Mike in Edmonton to confirm the number of books in Nature Alberta office.
- e. Baby's Breath Project update: EcoTrust did not participate and GN did not apply for a grant. Work parties went in June, July and August. This is an ongoing project. Lisa will be back in September to talk to John when he returns. Suggestion made about talking to Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.
- f. M.H. Community Foundation Endowment Plan: Moved that the Board accept in principal to sign the agreement and present to and receive approval from GN members at the next GN meeting, September 22. Anne to ask Mike Christie to write an article for the next Chronicle regarding the standard Endowment Fund.
- g. Staff benefits update: In July, GN received from the City Parks Dept the additional grant of \$6000 to cover the cost of Staff Benefits. This was much appreciated.
- h. Signing Officers for GN Club SERVUS bank account update: Completed. Dave McKenzie and Betty Rainville signed on as new officers.
- i. Changes to Signing Officers for MHIP on the TD Bank Account update: Now that the minutes of the Board Meeting June 5, 2015 have been approved, arrangements will be made for Dave McKenzie and John Slater to be signed on as new officers.

### **4. Reports:**

- a. Treasurer: Eileen presented end of July statements. Total GN club: \$30,631.01. IP: \$116,288.81. End of August statement for total GN club: \$30,250.27.

- b. Membership: Eileen reported GN has a significant number of members who have not renewed. A suggestion was made that perhaps a discount might be offered on a 3 year membership. Eileen will email these people and invite them to the MHIP Fall Festival on Sept 27.
- c. Correspondence: Newsletter from Nature Alberta ,and Wildlands Advocate which included an article on a “Grasslands” documentary film.
- d. Governance Committee:
  1. Moved that our budget time frame be changed to a calendar year of Jan 1 to Dec. 31 instead of a fiscal year (of April1 to March 31).
  2. Moved that John Slater be appointed to the Governance Committee.
  3. Moved and seconded that the board accept the Policies and Procedures presented en masse (all together) and the governance committee write up a P&P for Government agencies. Thank you to Paul for an excellent job on Policies and Procedures.
- e. Budget Committee: The actual expenditures are lower than projected, so the GN will run a more balanced budget than the original projected deficit. The MHIP has received good income from grants that exceeds expectations.
- f. MHIP Operations Committee report: John absent. Very successful summer program; and upcoming Fall Festival on Sunday Sept 27. Next committee meeting scheduled for Monday, Oct.5
- g. Issues Committee report: John and Martha absent. Girl Guide Pathfinders group picked Leafy Spurge in May. GN members are encouraged to attend “Change the Climate” put on by EcoTrust in Calgary, Nov 12-14, 2015. Cost details pending for possible member funding from Issues Committee budget. Budget for attending PCES conference in Saskatoon Feb 2016 is yet to be determined.

## 5. Other business

- a. Birding Trails Project Update: Paul has all the maps for the area and will put maps in sections of the write up. Pamphlets to be made and initially available on the GN website before applying for grants for hard paper copies. Milt and Paul did a good job! Ian suggested GPS way points could be added to maps as GPS coordinates. Ian to email Phil about GPS points.
- b. Pamphlets on Butterflies and Wildflowers: Martha absent. Following very successful Field Trips, Dave has initiated development of information for the Butterfly Pamphlet. Pamphlets would be developed and initially available on the GN website before applying for grants for hard paper copies. A suggestion made about possibly having Cenovus assist with funding as it has with some other groups.
- c. MHIP Fall Festival: Angela and Eileen to help on Sunday Sept 27. Corlaine suggested that at least 3 GN volunteers with name tags act as hosts at this event to run from 12 to 4 pm. Anne to see about a cake to be purchased by GN. Eileen to write an article in the Chronicle.
- d. MHIP Operations Committee: Issue to be addressed at the committee

meeting October 5 that Eileen will not continue doing books for the MHIP. Motion made that IP be given notice that we investigate finding a new Financial Bookkeeper for the MHIP.

- e. College Display Invitation: John received an invitation for GN to book a table for the free Sept. 10 event in the B Wing at the College. No appropriate display materials were ready for this year. Perhaps next year a table could be set up.
- f. Board minutes: Monthly Board minutes are always available on line. Moved that we stop putting Board minutes in the Chronicle and redirect readers to the website. Seconded and Approved.
- g. Bird Tales Addition: Suggested that we get 1 set of Alberta based "Nature Nut" by John Acorn at four episodes for \$20. Dave to send an email to Hugh.
- h. Donations: Suggested that a member making a significant donation might receive some individual recognition, maybe by phone or letter, and ask the donor if they wish the funds directed to something specific. Suggested sending the idea to the Policy Committee.

6. Next Board Meeting Tuesday, October 6 at Ian and Angela Turner's home at 6:30pm.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. Refreshments followed.