

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting, September 5, 2017 6:30 pm
Host- Eileen Cowtan,

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Dave McKenzie, Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt
Absent: Guest John Slater sent written notes.

1. Call to Order: 6:38 pm
2. Review and of Board Minutes from June 6, 2017. The following June 6 Board items were addressed:
 - 6.g. Potential partnership between GN and SEAWA and/or PRAXIS has been put off for the time being.
 - 6.f Next year's AGM. The Nature Centre will not be available because of construction. Anne Bernhardt will book the Honor Currie Room, MHPLibrary for March 27, 2018.
 - 3.f. Select external organization representative for SEAWA. Hugh will ask for a volunteer at the next General Meeting and will place an announcement in the Chronicle.Moved that the Board Minutes, including the above items, be adopted. CARRIED.
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Casino Update Training Session-** Dave McKenzie said all positions are filled for the Casino Sept.28 &29, 2017. 3 extra volunteers are available. No training session will be held with Lisa. Casino staff will contact Dave if the Casino location is changed.
 - b. **SEAWA requires a GN member-** see item 2. above. Hugh will bring this up at the next General meeting and note it in the Chronicle.
 - c. **Birding Trails potential financial requirements.** The Board referred to the Birding Trails Budget which was updated at the GN Budget Committee meeting on August 30, 2017. Three possible options were discussed in detail. A Motion was moved seconded and carried " that the funding requirements for the Birding Trails Booklet be presented at the General Meeting on September 26th, and that the Board recommends to the membership a funding amount of \$3,000.00 for 2017, and that should further funding be required it come from either further Grants or the 2018 Budget. In the interim, the Fund Raising Committee will continue to search for grants which can be dispersed prior to February 2018, as described in the agreement between Grasslands Naturalists and Canadian Badlands Tourism (CBT). Should Canadian Badlands Tourism acquire the required additional funds prior to February 2018, the search for additional funds will not be needed."
 - d. **Ad hoc committee versus Projects definition-** By definition an ad hoc committee is one that is formed for a specific task and dissolved after the completion of the task. Paul Thibault writes, if a GN Project is not part of an existing Committee, then it is an Ad hoc Committee. He notes, if a project is part of an existing Committee (eg. The Wildflower Brochure is part of the Issues Committee), then it is simply internal to that Committee and it is the responsibility of the Committee Chair to submit a budget for the project and report on it at the AGM as part of the Committee report. In some cases, the internal project activities may become large enough to justify forming a new Committee. This occurred with the Fundraising Committee, which was a spin-off from the Budget Committee.
 - e. **Committee Budgets for 2018-** Committee Chairs are asked to submit their Budgets to Paul by November 1, 2017.
 - f. **Bird Tales-Where do we go from here?** The Board discussed the report from Paul Thibault and Dee Armstrong entitled: Initial Thoughts on the Way Ahead for the GN Bird Tales Project, revised August 28, 2017. Hugh noted 2 of the challenges facing implementation of the BT Project were lack of volunteers, and the repetitive and restrictive nature of the sessions recommended by the Audubon Bird Tales videos. Paul and Dee have been trying to introduce the Bird Tales Project to Organizations and help them to eventually take it on as their own venture. The Board extends their whole hearted support to the Bird Tales Project.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** for government bodies, or PIPA Personal Information Protection Act, used sometimes for non-profit groups. After some discussion it was suggested that new and renewing GN members should be asked on membership forms, if they wish to have their personal contact information shared within the GN membership. Hugh will contact Paul regarding the GN policy toward either FOIP or PIPA, whichever applies to our non-profit group. This will be noted in the Sagebrush Chronicle.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report-** Eileen reported the GN balance to the end of July was \$24,421.70. After a recent GN Budget Committee meeting on August 30th. Paul Thibault wrote... it was suggested by Eileen that funding that is not directly used by the GN Club or MHIP but simply transferred to a third party may be best allocated to a new fourth GN bank account. This would avoid distorting the GN Club and MHIP financial statements and make the 5 year summary much more self-consistent.

- b. **Membership**- Eileen noted the membership numbers are currently down, at 78
A Board member suggested that draws be made at a General meeting to give away 2 new memberships for the year.
- c. **Correspondence**- Eileen said there was no noteworthy correspondence.
- d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report**- John Slater sent the following written report to the Board:
1. Last Committee Meeting; May 1st. Next meeting October 23rd.
 2. Last City Contract with list of City equipment being finalized.
 3. Renovations of Nature Centre: finalizing contract to be let.
 4. Packing and moving the IP to the Heritage Pavilion in Strathcona Park.
 5. Next IP event; Fall festival Oct. 1st
- e. **Issues Committee Report**- John sent the following written report:
1. City Wide Litter Blitz in Brier Run: 20 person hours
 2. Last Issues Committee Meeting: May 11. Next meeting TBA.
 3. Beaver Activity and Lodge Location Surveys; Strathcona Island and Lion's Parks and Police Point Park: 15 person hours.
 4. Tree Wrapping along River Road: 260 trees; 48 person hours.
 5. Tree Wrapping in Harlow: 100 trees; 18 person hours.
 6. Baby's Breath Flagging in Brier Run: about 500 plants; 4 person hours.
 7. Baby's Breath Removal in NECH and PPP; 380 plants; 14 person hours.
 8. Baby's Breath Removal along SE Hill: 115 plants; 6 person hours.
 9. Baby's Breath Removal in East Glen Coulee: 30 plants; 7 person hours.
 10. Leafy Spurge GPS Location in Strathcona Island & Lion's Park and River Road: 6 person hours.
 11. Black Henbane Removal in East Glen Park; 2 plants, 1 person hour.
 12. Pollinator Garden in PPP; 4 person hours.
- Wildflower Brochure Project**: John reported total to date: 160 person hours
1. Listed and gathered pictures of Wildflowers for Brochure: Completed
 2. Composed Website of Wildflower lists and pictures: Completed
 3. Information sent to Judith Golub and initial draft received and reviewed. Revisions sent to Judith: Waiting her reply.
 4. Layout of Rack Card and 1000 printed: Completed and Distributed.
 5. Revisions to the list and pictures may be desired.
 6. Plan to print Brochure before the end of the year.
- f. **Indoor Committee**- Dave McKenzie confirmed that he would need someone to take his position. Meanwhile he reported the following indoor speakers:
- Karma Tibeg, Biological Control Technician, spoke after the June pot luck on June 27th about the Biological Control of Weeds using Insects.
- Vern Hyde, Cycling in Canada for the Ethiopian School, is booked for Sept. 26th
- Wendy Nuttall, Photographer, is booked for the October General Meeting.
- Todd Sharpe, General Manager of Parks and Recreation, may be booked for November. This is not confirmed yet.
- Kris Samraj, head of nonfiction services at MH Public Library, may be speaking in January 2018.
- Lyndon Penner Horticultural Instructor, and Dr. Glynnis Hood who studies the ecological importance of the beaver, are two possible upcoming indoor speakers.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee**- See 3.c. above on Birding Trails financial requirements.
- Hugh noted that no new income is expected at this time although GN does anticipate some funding from Canadian Badlands for the Birding Trails and possibly \$1,000.00 from Walmart for Bird Tales. Hugh may also apply for more funding for the Birding Trails.
- h. **Field Trip Updates**- New appointment is needed to replace Gary Martin. Thank you for your past contributions to GN Field Trips, Gary. John Slater sent the following written report:
1. June 24; Birding Trail 5, Pinhorn Reserve led by Milt; 8 persons
 2. June 27; Neighbourhood Walk in East Glen Coulee led by Dave; 2 persons
 3. June 30; Neighbourhood Walk in Ranchlands Natural Areas led by Ian and Angela
 4. July 4; Butterfly Count at Elkwater led by Dave; 4 persons
 5. July 8; Birding in Cypress Hills led by Phil
 6. Aug.12; Canoe/Kayak Echo Dale Park to Strathcona Island Park led by Wendy; 6 persons
 7. Aug.22; Butterfly & Bugs near Gas City Campground and Bike to Echo Dale Park led by Dave; 3 persons
 8. Sept.9; Red Rock Coulee/Manyberries; Field Trip is cancelled
 9. Sept.16; Fall Migration Sauder/Murray Reservoirs led by Phil
 10. Sept. 28 & 29; Casino by Vanshaw Fund Raiser for GN; Dave McKenzie
 11. Sept.30; Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in Strathcona Island and Lion's Parks; Volunteers needed

- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner reported the Committee purchased 1000 new Rack Cards. She noted the Medicine Hat College Faculty will contact her by the end of September or November regarding their Social to be held in November. Angela will put together two gift baskets made up of stuffies, books, Rack Cards, etc. Anne Bernhardt and Eileen Cowtan have volunteered to supervise the table on September 16 at the Farmer's Market. The portable banner is at the Nature Centre.
 - j. **Birding Trails Project Update-** Canadian Badlands Tourism- see 3.c. above.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update-** see 3.f. above
 - l. **Nature Alberta-** Nature Alberta needs a GN representative since Gary Martin has given up this position. Angela Turner expressed an interest in the duties and responsibilities involved as a representative.
- 6 Other Business
- a. **AquaVan 150-** Hugh reported this large educational display from the Vancouver Aquarium will be located at Police Point Park on Sunday, September 10 from 11:00 am- 4:00 pm.
 - b. **Devika Shah-World Wildlife Fund-Canada Blog-** Hugh noted Grasslands Naturalists were listed in the Prairie Region as working with the City of Medicine Hat to remove noxious weeds, especially Baby's Breath and Leafy Spurge. See the entry at blog.wwf.ca/blog/author/devika
 - c. **Replacements needed-** As mentioned earlier, a total of 5 positions are available for GN members to fill as Indoor Speaker replacement, SEAWA GN representative, Board member, Field Trip chair, and Nature Alberta Representative.
 - d. **Next Board Meeting** Tuesday, October 3 at Betty's 770-8 Street, Dunmore AB. (403) 529-7084
 - e. **Adjournment** 8:40 pm.