

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of General Meeting October 24, 2017  
Police Point Park

1. Call to Order: 7:06 pm (Acting President Dave McKenzie)
2. Review and adoption of General Minutes from September 26, 2017. **CARRIED.**
3. Exciting Sightings: Phil Horch reported seeing all types of Sparrows Saturday at Police Point Park and Echo Dale Park for one day only.  
Dave McKenzie noted seeing Juncos today. Swans were also seen all week at Murray Lake, and five Sandhill Cranes were seen near Oyen, Alberta.
4. Treasurer's Report and Membership: Eileen Cowtan reported there is \$3,237.73 in the GN Chequing account and \$20,333.90 in the GN Savings account. The balance in the MHIP account as at September 30 is \$83,734.00.

Membership total is up to 83, consisting of 38 individuals and 45 families.

5. Correspondence: Eileen said there was no correspondence.
6. Priority Business:
  - a. **Nature Alberta GN rep needed:** Angela Turner has agreed to take this position. Thank you Angela.
  - b. **Committee budgets:** These are due to Paul Thibault by November 1.
  - c. **Other GN positions:** Board Member-at-large, External Organization rep for SEAWA, Indoor Speaker Chair, and Field Trip Chair are positions that now need to be filled.
7. Interpretive Program Report: Corlaine reported they have been seeing lots of school classes.  
Upcoming Public events include a Family Event on November 4 at 10:30 am with a Storywalk, The Mitten, by Jan Brett. This Storywalk will be in place through to November 30.  
Lisa Bey and Greg Campbell lead Fall Fitness in the Park in Police Point Park on November 16 from 10 am to noon, and also on November 19 from 11 am to 3 pm. starting at the Nature Centre.  
The Lions Club Hayride takes place on December 3 at PP Park from 1 to 4 pm with hot chocolate and other goodies.  
The Christmas Bird Count and Pot Luck run on Sunday December 17. Contact Marty Drut to participate in the Count.  
Corlaine noted renovations to the Nature Centre may start after Christmas. The Centre will stay open January to April 2018 but Family Day and the Easter Program will be held at Echo Dale Swim Centre.
8. Committee Reports:
  - a. **Issues Committee: Written report from John Slater as follows:** For the Issues Committee, Martha has been carrying the load, which I appreciate. GN (Martha and Tina) participated in a tripartite meeting with City Planning Dept and SEAWA on October 5, concerning the SEAWA project involving the assessment and restoration of Seven Persons Creek with the City and beyond. Also, the Planning Dept. is soliciting input to the revision of the City's Municipal Development Plan. Martha is planning to call an Issues Committee meeting at her house later in the week, which is open to all who would like to attend. Call Martha to find out date and time.

**MHIP Operations Committee** will be meeting next Monday Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm at the Nature Centre.

Please extend my thanks and gratitude to Bill Knibbs as well as all GN Members for the Well Wishes for Bev for her recovery.

- b. **Field Trips:** The Annual Christmas Bird Count will take place Sunday, December 17. Contact Marty Drut for route placements.
- c. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Tonight's speaker is Wendy Nuttall, Photographer, from Maple Creek, SK.  
November 28 Indoor speaker will be City Councillor Kris Samraj on Paddling the Mackenzie River.  
January 23 Indoor speaker will be Todd Sharpe talking about the Updated Municipal Development Plan and  
February 27 speaker will be Dr. Dinesh Mategaonkar speaking on Environmental Impact Assessments.
- d. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong is away.
- e. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil Horch has supplied two proofs of the Birding Trails Guide to tonight's meeting. He said they are at the design stage presently, and hope to have the book finished by the end of November 2017.  
Rob Gardner said the group will need storage for 2,500 books from now to March 2018. Contact Rob, Bob Frew, or Milt Spitzer if you have space available.

- f. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner said there is nothing new to report. She has taken the donated baskets and contents to the MH College Faculty Association.
9. New Business:
- a. **Wildflower Brochures:** Dwayne Myers said the brochure will be published next month.
10. Other Business:
- a. **Webcam project and Update:** Hugh is absent.
  - b. **Casino:** Dave thanked all volunteers who assisted at the recent Casino. He said it all went smoothly, and he offered to head next year's Casino. Thank you Dave for all the effort in organizing the past event.
  - c. **Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up:** Thank you to Wendy Blackwell for leading the clean-up, and to the volunteers who participated.
  - d. **SEAWA Public Education Forum:** To be held November 2, 2017 at the Medicine Hat Lodge from 8 am to 2:30 pm. Attendance is free, but Angela Turner noted Registration must be in by October 27<sup>th</sup>. She has an agenda and will be attending.  
Marty Drut will set up a Riparian Display for viewing. Thank you Marty.
  - e. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday November 7, 2017 at Ian & Angela's home.
  - f. **Adjournment** at 7:40 pm Attendance 20 people
  - g. **Refreshment Break**
  - h. **Program** 8 pm. Attendance 20 people. Speaker Wendy Nuttall, Photographer from Maple Creek , Sask.