

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of General Meeting – November 25, 2014
POLICE POINT PARK

1. **Call to Order:** 7:08pm Vice President, Dave McKenzie in the chair,
Eileen Cowtan acting as recording secretary
2. **Minutes** of General Meeting October 28, 2014: not available
3. **Exciting Sightings:** Marty Drut reported that a photo of a banded snowy owl was captured by
Photographer Carolyn Hepner. John Slater reported Gary Martin's sighting of an albino magpie
near Dunmore.
4. **Newspaper Clips:** John Slater shared
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen Cowtan
 - Total GN Club: \$21,575.60, Interpretive Program: \$35,577.31 as of October 31, 2014.
 - Final payment for the Pipit Project should be received soon. It will be well over \$20,000.
 - Membership: 94: (51 individual, 43 family)
 - Donations of \$360 from individual members were received in the past month.
6. **Priority Business:**
 - a) There is still a vacancy on the Board – Director at Large. No one has volunteered.
Rob Gardner questioned if an out-of-town person could be accommodated via electronic media.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - a) **Indoor Program:** Dave McKenzie noted that speakers for Jan., Feb. and April have been
arranged. December 21: Christmas Bird Count and potluck.
 - b) **Field Trips:** no report; bird count as above
 - c) **Fundraising:** Hugh Armstrong
Co-op receipts: income from the previous collection period was over \$250. The next period is
from Sept 16, 2014 until Mar. 14, 2015. Only receipts within these dates are eligible for the
rebate.
 - d) **Issues:** John Slater
John circulated a letter received from the Parks and Recreation Dept. in response to questions
that the committee had raised. It was suggested that all or portions should be printed in the
Chronicle.
Discussion: representation on UERAB (Urban Environment and Recreation Advisory Board). It
was felt that environmental issues are not being represented on this board. The meetings are
open to the public but they cannot speak unless invited.
 - e) **Budget:** A committee meeting may be held in late December
 - f) **Governance:** as above in e)

8. Interpretive Program Report: Corlaine Gardner

- The Story Walk program “The Mitten” has been very successful. Many school groups have participated.
- Dec. 7: annual Lions Club hayride. Volunteers are needed. A work party to prune the trails used for the hayride has been formed; will meet on Thursday Nov. 27.
- Dec. 21: annual Bird Count: contact Marty to be assigned a route
- “Flourish”, a wonderful display of photographs is on exhibit until Dec 28th, 2014.
- January: exhibit will be the annual high school art show.
- All activities are printed on a sheet available at the front desk.

9. Nature Alberta Report: Martha Munz Gue

- The organization is doing well administratively.
- All four programs are proceeding well.
- Members are encouraged to buy NA books as a way of supporting NA.
- Martha distributed two of NA’s booklets: “Alberta Birds Checklist” and “IBA: Important Bird Area Alberta Guide 2014.”

10. Other Business

a) Tina Regehr: has arranged a tour of the newly opened Concentrated Solar Thermal Plant to be held on Dec. 3 at noon.

b) Hugh Armstrong: The MH Community Foundation is planning to post a “Community Knowledge Centre” online where organizations can provide a profile page. Someone who is knowledgeable of the internet is needed to create GN’s contribution.

c) Hugh Armstrong: The Board discussed the possibility of a project originally mentioned by Paul Thibault. It is “a program for engaging people with dementia through the natural world of birds” With the ever-growing elderly population , long-term care communities are experiencing pressure to find new and innovative ways to keep residents active and engaged, especially those with advanced dementia. Upon further investigation the “Bird Tales” program, an innovative Audubon program, was suggested as a starter.

MOTION: that GN purchase a “Bird Tales” program kit at the cost of \$US89.95 through the Audubon Society. The estimated cost if we purchase all materials would be about \$2000. Hopefully, we can cover the majority of the cost through grants. CARRIED

Mary suggested that the program may be tied into Project Feeder Watch.

d) Sean Allen:

- The ‘Baby’s Breath’ project will probably be continued in the coming year.
 - Sean is working on getting another oil company involved in the removal of buckthorn.
11. Next General Meeting: December potluck on Dec. 21.
Next Board meeting: Dec. 2 at Hugh Armstrong’s, 15 Partridge St NE, at 6:30.
12. Adjournment: 8:05pm
13. Program: David Gue : Galapagos Islands Part II. Attendance for program – 23.