

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of General Meeting, October 25, 2016  
Police Point Park

1. Call to Order: 7:02 pm., Hugh Armstrong- Chair, Betty Rainville- Secretary
2. Review of Minutes of General Meeting September 27, 2016.  
Hugh mentioned that 2 carvers from the Birding presentation on October 3 have offered to carve approximately 60 wooden "cuddle" birds for residents at Meadow Ridge Seniors Village and Masterpiece Retirement who would benefit from them. Minutes Adopted. MOTION CARRIED.
3. Exciting Sightings: Corlaine heard coyotes this evening. Milt saw a Wood Duck on Ross Creek near the IXL Plant, and lastly, there was a possible California Quail sighting at the Elkwater Bench recently. Marty said this type of quail has a distinctive call.
4. Treasurer's Report and Membership: Eileen said the balance from the Chequing and Savings Account, plus the GIC and common shares equals \$23,087.10. The Casino account stands at \$14,895.76. The Interpretive Program will receive \$5,000.00 from the Casino Funds. Membership stands at 81 with 38 families and 43 individuals. Moved that Eileen's reports be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.
5. Correspondence: None.
6. Priority Business:
  - a) **GN Lifetime Membership presentation** to Phil Horch: Milt Spitzer spoke of Phil's more than 30 year membership and his innumerable contributions to GN over the years. Phil thanked GN for the honour, and said it was a joy to be a part of the group. Congratulations Phil.
  - b) **Nature Alberta AGM**: Gary Martin is away, and no alternate representative is able to attend .the AGM in Edmonton. The teleconference session of the N.A. Board meeting starts at 9:30 am until 3:30 pm., then GN members are invited to view the AGM at John Slater's house at 4 pm. Thank you John for hosting this and providing snacks and refreshments.
  - c) **Committee Budgets** are due to Paul Thibault by November 15 at 4:30 pm. There will be a Budget meeting after that date planned for November 30th.
  - d) **UERAB applications** due by November 4, 4:30 pm. There are 3 openings available, with 1 application so far from a GN member.
  - e) **SEAWA Urban Sustainability Forum**: at MH College, November 4. Register by October 26. Six GN members will split the time promoting a GN table and display on Riparian Health Assessment at this forum. There is no charge for parking or for meals provided.
7. **Interpretive Program Report**: Corlaine thanked all the volunteers for their help at the Fall Festival on October 2, and emphasized that volunteers are always needed and appreciated at the Nature Centre. The outstanding display, Photographers of a Feather, features many GN members, and is open to view until December 30. It runs in co-ordination with the Esplanade exhibit, Our Feathered Friends, which shows until January 8, 2017. Corlaine noted the Interpretive Program has been busy with school programs. Jan Brett's "The Mitten" StoryWalk starts November 2 to November 30 and takes place on a trail at Police Point Park. The Lion's Club Christmas Hayride is held Sunday, December 4 from 1 to 4 pm. Meet at the Nature Centre. Volunteers needed. Phone (403) 529-6225.
8. Committee Reports:
  - a) **Issues Committee**: John Slater noted the beavers are busy here. Please let the Nature Centre know if you see new signs of beaver presence in Police Point Park. Hugh has been wrapping trees, to protect them from beaver activity, with wire provided by the Parks Department. On October 15, Marty led an evening walk in Police Point Park called, "I Spy a Beaver".  
John said the Wildflower sub-committee, which met October 25, is working on a brochure that they hope to have out by next March GN AGM meeting. The Medicine Hat & District Horticultural Society may be able to provide some funding for this brochure.  
John brought up the Hamptons area, which is bounded by 13 Ave. S.E and South Boundary Road. He is hoping the planners will incorporate the wetlands into the area. Interestingly, Rob noted fireflies could be seen there

in June after dark.

- b) **Indoor Program Speakers:** Dave McKenzie- not available. He is acting as GN host to tonight's speaker, Hyland Armstrong.
- c) **Field Trips Update:** Any Field Trips will be posted on line at [www.natureline.info/gn/](http://www.natureline.info/gn/) , then click on Field Trips. A few GN members will be meeting with Canadian Badlands Ltd., a not-for-profit Alberta group, on Thursday, October 27. This group may wish to help fund the Birding Trails Brochure. Rob will be taking photos of the birding display at the Nature Centre to the meeting.  
John invited anyone wishing to enjoy the warm weather this Thursday, to a bike ride to Redcliff along a trail, or possibly to a walk in the Ranchlands area.
- d) **Fund Raising Committee Update:** The committee is looking at fund raising for 3 different projects; the Birding Trails brochure, the Wildflower Brochure, and the Web Cam Project. As mentioned in 8.c) the CBL may wish to assist with funding for the Birding Trails brochure.  
The Fund Raising Committee will be submitting grant applications over the next few months.
- e) **Birding Trails Project Update:** Phil Horch noted the 15 Birding Trails outlined in the project may be seen on the GN website [www.natureline.info/gn/](http://www.natureline.info/gn/), then click on the Birding link. The project took approximately 744 hours in creation, with Milt Spitzer working on the text, and Paul Thibault working on maps.  
The group plans to create a 44 page booklet so that birding visitors to the area may plan trips on the trails. Thursday's meeting with CBL, mentioned in 8.c) and 8.d), will discuss ways to create visibility for the birding trails through roadside pullouts, signs etc. John suggested members try out some of these trails, and give feedback after.
- f) **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner. Nothing to report at this time.  
Moved that all previous reports be accepted. CARRIED

9. New Business: None

10. Other Business:

- a) **Web Cam-** Hugh said web cam operation at the Interpretive Centre is clear with good resolution, according to Paul. To see bird activity, viewers may go to ustream.tv, click Watch, then Search, then type GN Bird Feeder, and bring up full screen. There will be advertising. Rob requested the website address be sent to members. Eileen agreed to do this.  
Hugh said the City will supply all electricity for the webcam at the Heron nest location.  
Funding is needed for the camera and additional related expenses.  
Hugh is hopeful the Web Cam will be operational by Spring 2018 at the Heron nesting site.
- b) **Bird Photography Displays:** (noted earlier in item #7) at the Esplanade and the Nature Centre. Hugh noted these were both excellent displays. On October 18, Phil gave a presentation on Birding, at the Esplanade, followed by a tour of the Esplanade exhibit, "Our feathered Friends". This display is free on Thursdays.
- c) **Shoreline Cleanup:** of Seven Persons Creek in Kin Coulee Park by MH College. John said 8 people helped on October 15, and picked up approximately 200 kg. of trash.  
Angela Turner remarked on the surprisingly high number of fish ( 2000 to 3000 according to workers) that were transferred from one part of Seven Persons Creek to another on October 23, while the irrigation intake system at Kin Coulee Park is being repaired.
- d) Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, Nov 1 at Eileen's home. Hugh stressed that Board meetings are open to all members.
- e) Adjournment at 7:38 pm, Attendance 22.
- f) Refreshment break
- g) Program 8:05 pm. Attendance 28. Speaker: Hyland Armstrong MSc. on: Livestock Grazing Effects on Biodiversity.