

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of General Meeting, November 26, 2019  
Police Point Park..

1. Call to Order: 7:05 pm with Hugh Armstrong presiding and Betty Rainville, Secretary.
2. Review and Adoption of General Minutes from October 22. **CARRIED**
3. Exciting Sightings:
  - Linda Fisher saw 5 American Goldfinches, in her yard, at the beginning of November.
  - Milt Spitzer saw 2 Great Horned Owls in the Enchanted Forest in Police Point Park.
  - Phil Horch sighted 2 Great Horned Owls at Echo Dale Park.
  - Wendy Blackwell witnessed an ice jam breaking up on the river between Police Point Park and Strathcona Park
4. Treasurer's Report and Membership: Eileen reported a Casino Balance at this time of \$14,200.76. Eileen reported a balance in the Chequing Account, as of November 26, of \$4165.75, and a balance of \$16,505.95 in the GN "Club" Savings Account. Common Shares are \$1.30 bringing Total Current Assets to a total of \$20,673.76. There are 86 members at present.
5. Correspondence: Eileen reported no correspondence.
6. Priority Business:
  - a. **UERAB Application:** Hugh reported that Gerry Ehlert may be applying for a position on the Urban Environment Recreation Advisory Board since Dave McKenzie's term on this Board ends in December.
  - b. **Openings on Operations Committee:** Hugh reported there is one opening on this GN Committee. The group meets three times each year, usually on Mondays.
  - c. **Volunteers for future General Meeting set-up:** Thank you to Milt and Elaine Spitzer, and Simonne Flynn for volunteering to set up the Nature Centre and bring snacks for tonight's General Meeting. Ian and Angela will be assisting again as volunteers for the January General Meeting set up. Thank you.
7. Interpretive Program Report: Corlaine noted the following:
  - I.F.Cox school students attend Fridays; with all Grade 3's, then Grade 1's and then Grade 2's doing the program at the Nature Centre.
  - The Kiwanis Club, who will sponsor the annual Kiwanis Family Day festivities on February 17th, came to the Nature Centre at lunch to see the recent renovations.
  - The Lion's Club will be hosting the Hayride on December 1 from 1pm to 4 pm. Corlaine noted they usually bring their own volunteers but a few GN volunteers will be needed to:
    - a) set up No Parking signs along the road
    - b) assist children in making paper decorations for the Christmas tree.
  - Marty is away on holidays. Please email or phone to volunteer for the Annual Bird and Feeder Count held December 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - The current StoryWalk will run until Monday. Near the end of January, the new StoryWalk will be on display. (See 8.c. below).
8. Committee Reports:
  - a. **Issues Committee:** These six Issues were raised in a detailed November report to the Board:
    - Climate Emergency
    - Alternative Energy
    - Water
    - Wildflowers and Pollinators
    - Invasives
    - Environmental Advisement
  - b. **MHIP/Operations Committee:** See Corlaine's I.P. Report in the upcoming December Sagebrush Chronicle.
  - c. **Field Trips and events:** Covered by Corlaine in her report (see Item #7. Above)
  - d. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Linda Fisher reported that Alyssa Friesen will be speaking on, The Calgary Zoo's Conservation Work, after tonight's General Meeting.
  - e. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh noted the Financial Report for the renovations carried out at the Nature Centre has arrived.
  - f. **Birding Trails:** Hugh reported, for Paul and Dee, that the group is working on a Fairy Garden. They will meet two times in December.
  - g. **Communication Committee:** Angela Turner. There is nothing to report at this time.

- h. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela listened in to the N.A. Board of Director's Meeting by tele-conference on November 30. They will publish the highlights from this meeting in the upcoming December Chronicle.
9. New Business:
- a. **Nature Alberta Bird and Biodiversity Areas Checklist 2014:** Milt noted the link is in the November Chronicle at <http://online.fliphtml5.com/ffxrj/gsxu/> It is a printable booklet produced by Nature Alberta.
10. Other Business:
- a. **Meeting with City Parks Department:** Hugh reported he has requested a meeting with the City but they are in a state of transition presently with staff retirements and replacements. An early spring meeting in 2020 may be more feasible.
  - b. **Filing Cabinet Sorting:** Phil explained that filing cabinet sorting entails going through all documents preserved on the history and existence of our GN Society. Dennis Baresco, long time GN member, has volunteered to sort these documents beginning with 1 box this week. Thank you Dennis and Phil.
  - c. **Methanex CAP (Community Advisory Panel):** Ian Turner, who is a member of CAP, asked the General Meeting audience tonight if they are interested in having Methanex respond to GN with an oral or written presentation pertaining to actions Methanex is taking regarding effects of emissions on Climate Change.  
Rob Gardner suggested Methanex could provide a written presentation to the Chronicle, or perhaps a 10 minute presentation at a business meeting.  
Linda Fisher suggested this be discussed at the Dec.3 Board Meeting and brought back to the Jan.28 General Meeting.
  - d. **City Open House:** Tina Regehr announced there is a Statutory Public Engagement session on the Brier Run area structure plan at the Family Leisure Centre from 4 pm to 7 pm on December 3. Everyone welcome.
  - e. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday December 3, 6:30 pm at Hugh and Dee's house.
  - f. **Adjournment:** at 7:32 pm. Attendance at GM is 23.
  - g. **Refreshment Break**
  - h. **Program Start:** 8:05 pm. Attendance 28. Speaker is Alyssa Friesen presenting on Calgary Zoo's Conservation Work.