

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
 Police Point Park
 Sunday September 13, 2020, 4:00 pm.

1. Call to Order 4:30 pm- Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary) Attendance 32 Sign-up list with Corlaine
2. Review of the March 26, 2019 AGM Minutes. **Moved by John Slater that the Minutes be Adopted. Seconded by Valerie Martins. CARRIED.**
3. Presentation of Lifetime Membership to Jan Scott: Valerie Martins presented the GN Lifetime Membership award to Jan for her many contributions to Grasslands Naturalists and the interpretive Program, as well as sharing her information and expertise with organizations in the City of Medicine Hat and southeastern Alberta. (See October 2020, Sagebrush Chronicle on-line article about Jan, written by Paul Thibault).
4. Committee Reports: Hardcopy of 2019 Reports to be available at the AGM for viewing. Copies of all 2019 reports submitted are posted on the GN website at www.grasslands-naturalists.org. 'For Members', Reports for AGM 13 September 2020. The Treasurer gave a verbal report at the AGM.
 - a. **President's Report:** Hugh Armstrong
 - b. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen Cowtan. Eileen gave a shortened verbal report of the GN 'Club' Account, and the MH Interpretive Program Account. She stated the last Casino fundraiser was held in June 2019 and raised \$18,642.00. Please see Eileen's report at the GN website above for complete details on the 'Club' and IP Accounts. Eileen thanked Ian Wallis and Angela Turner for reviewing the books prior to the AGM.

*Further financial details are included below; following an amendment proposed by Rob Gardner and approved by members at the September 14, 2021, AGM to show Opening Balance, Income Received, Total Expenses, and Closing Balance in the actual AGM Minutes, as well as being shown on the GN website for the 2019 year Jan.1 to Dec. 31.

1) Opening Balance for MHIP-Retained Earnings 2018 are	79,553
Total Income is	300,415
Total Expenses are	222,050
Current Earnings are	78,365
Total Equity as of Dec.31, 2019 is	157,917

2) Opening Balance for GN 'Club'-Retained Earnings 2018 are	21,866
Total Income is	5,815
Total Expenses are	5,994
Current Earnings are	-179
Total Equity as of Dec.31, 2019 is	21,687

- c. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Bob Townsend
- e. **MH Interpretive Program:** Corlaine Gardner
- f. **Issues Committee:** Martha Munz Gue and John Slater
- g. **Budget Committee:** Paul Thibault
- h. **Governance Committee:** Paul Thibault
- i. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong
- j. **Field Trip Committee:** John Slater
- k. **Indoor Program Committee:** Linda Fisher
- l. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil Horch
- m. **Bird Tales Project:** Paul Thibault and Dee Armstrong
- n. **Carol Porter Bluebird Trail (Project):** Milt Spitzer
- o. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela Turner
- p. **Web Cam Project:** Hugh Armstrong and Paul Thibault

Moved by Ian that all previous reports be ADOPTED. Seconded by Paul. CARRIED

5. Elections:
 Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Led by John Slater. John called for Nominations from the Floor, and the following members were elected by acclamation.

Secretary: Betty Rainville

Treasurer: Eileen Cowtan

Vice President: position remains open. The Board welcomes suggestions.

President: Phil Horch

John Moved that Nominations cease. **CARRIED**

6. Other Business:

a. **Directors Appointments.** The Board confirms these appointments **directly after the AGM.** See Addendum following conclusion of these AGM Minutes.

Past President- Hugh Armstrong

Directors at Large- Ian and Angela Turner, Linda Fisher

b. **Committee Volunteers Selection** (Confirmed at Next Board Meeting)

Committees to meet at the first opportunity to select Chairperson and confirm Budget.

1. Communications Committee
2. Budget Committee
3. Governance Committee
4. Issues Committee
5. MHIP Operations Committee
6. Field Trips Committee
7. Indoor Program Committee
8. Fund Raising

c. **Projects (contact names)**

Carol Porter Bluebird Trail: Milt Spitzer

Birding Trails: Phil Horch, Milt Spitzer, Bob Frew, Rob Gardner and others.

Bird Tales: Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault

Butterflies, Dragonflies and More: Dave McKenzie

Wildflowers: Martha Munz Gue

GN/City Parks Department Projects: John Slater, Gerry Ehlert

d. **External Organization Reps** (Volunteers to be confirmed at next Board meeting).

1. Nature Alberta: Ian and Angela Turner
2. SEAWA:

7. **Announcements:** John Slater commented on the following:

a. Committee heads to have budgets to Paul before November 1st, please.

b. September 13 at 6:30 pm (today), Music in the Park near the Nature Centre.

c. September 16 at 9:30 am Nature Walk at Echo Dale Regional Park: Led by John. Meet at the upper viewpoint.

d. September 23 at 9:30 am Ranchlands Cleanup: Meet at far NE end of Ranchlands Blvd., Contact John Slater-information

e. September 27 at 2:00 pm Berm Walk: Led by the Nature Centre for World River Day. Contact Nature Centre-information

f. September 30 at 9:30 am Strathcona Park Cleanup: Meet at the Heritage Pavilion. Contact John for information

g. October 7 at 9:30 am Riverside Walk: Meet at 1st street and 5th Avenue NW. Led by Martha Munz Gue

h. October 14 at 9:30 am PP Park **OR** Gas City Campground. Not decided yet. Led by John and Martha

i. October 21 at 9:30 am MH Teepee to Saamis Coulee: Led by Martha Munz Gue

j. October 28 at 9:30 am New Redcliff Cemetary Trails: Meet at the Redcliff Cemetary. Led by John and Paula.

End of John's announcements.

k. Elaine Spitzer reported that the Nature Centre has a 25% off sale on Bird Seed.

l. Linda Fisher noted that Brian Keating cancelled his programmed trip to Medicine Hat for now.

m. Martha reminded members present, that the Art Gallery is open Wednesdays from 12 to 4:30 pm. Located at the Arcade Plaza on 3rd Street, displaying GN and SEAWA members' art work.

n. Next Skype Board Meeting: Tuesday October 6th at 1:30 pm

o. Next General Meeting: date not set

p. David Gue Moved that the AGM be adjourned at 5:00 pm. Valerie seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

ADDENDUM to Annual General Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2020

Phil Horch, President, called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm

Members Present:

Phil Horch-President
Hugh Armstrong- Past President
Eileen Cowtan- Treasurer
Betty Rainville- Secretary
Ian and Angela Turner
Linda Fisher

Moved that Hugh Armstrong be appointed as Past President and that Ian and Angela Turner, and Linda Fisher be appointed as Members at Large. CARRIED

Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 pm.