

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of General Meeting, February 25, 2020  
Police Point Park

(To be submitted to GN members for review and approval)

1. Call to Order: 7:05 pm with Hugh Armstrong presiding and Betty Rainville, Secretary.
2. Review and Adoption of General Minutes from January 28, 2020
3. Exciting Sightings:
  - Corlaine Gardner noted that Rob, as well as others, spotted a moose on Strathcona Island about 1 week ago.
  - Marty Drut reported that a Varied Thrush has been seen around the Nature Centre throughout the winter.
  - Hugh Armstrong saw 2 eagles on a nest recently. He said the best view is from the sand bar on the river with binoculars or a camera.
  - Linda Fisher reported hearing about a Robin in Edmonton that has been seen in the river eating minnows, all winter.
4. Treasurer's Report and Membership: Eileen reported a balance in the Chequing Account as of February 25 of \$1,239.05 and a balance of \$16,537.18 in the GN "Club" Savings Account.  
Eileen reported a Casino balance at this time of \$9,943.65.  
For the benefit of the new members attending tonight, Eileen explained that GN manages Police Point Park. The city covers half of our operating costs. Eileen reported a cheque from the City for \$173,163.00 was recently deposited.  
The total cost of Insurance is \$5,134.00, with \$1,369.00 for the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance portion paid from Casino account.  
Membership is in flux at this time because of people signing up in January and February.
5. Correspondence: Eileen reported no Correspondence.
6. Priority Business:
  - a. **New Committee Members Needed:** Hugh noted that nominations may be taken from the floor at the AGM March 24. He reported all of the Board have let their names stand.  
Phil Horch has agreed to run for the position of President.  
Hugh urged members to think about running for Vice President. He reminded members that 1 or 2 openings are available on both the Governance and Budget Committees.  
A member has expressed interest in the position of Treasurer and will discuss it with Eileen Cowtan.
  - b. **Volunteers for Pre-Meeting setup March 24:** Milt noted there is a sign up form at the Nature Centre front desk with a detailed list of what to do. Ian and Angela will discuss it.
  - c. **World Water Day/Week:** March 22 at MHP Library. Angela emailed David Condon. She will get the GN banner, to be erected beside the art work display. Paula and/or Ian and Angela, will set up the display.
  - d. **AGM Start Time:** 7:00 pm. Hugh noted that setup time before the AGM should start at 6:30 pm.
  - e. **Annual Committee Reports:** Due to Paul Thibault by March 15. Eileen will be away, but she will let Paul know her report will not be in by the 15<sup>th</sup>.
7. Interpretive Program Report: Corlaine noted the following:
  - The City gave the IP a cheque as reported in the Treasurer's Report above. \$240,000 is the IP. budget for the year.
  - The Nature Centre is fortunate to have lots of volunteers presently.
  - January and February were spent writing out applications for about 7 grants. Corlaine is hoping other grants will come through, similar to a recent allocation, in order to provide funding to hire students, and other projects.
  - Kiwanis Family Day on February 17 was a lovely day for activities.
  - The Winter Walk led by John on Feb.5 was enjoyed by all.
  - Lion or Lamb? Next week on March 4 with a 3:30 pm start for the Winter Walk.(see Events 8.c below)
  - Sunday, March 1, starting at the Nature Centre at 2:00 pm, Marty will lead a walk to look for Otters. (see 8c) Please leave dogs at home, and be prepared for mud and ice on the walk.Bring binoculars for a better view.  
If you see Otter activity in the next few days please let Marty know. Marty reported the last sighting noted on Face book was February 19. Brandy and a few others saw them.  
Recently the CBC reported the otters seen in Medicine Hat.
8. Committee Reports:
  - a. **Issues Committee:** Martha is absent. Paula Munro read Martha's written notes below:
    - Bottled Water-approval to transport water. Waiting on that to meet with MLA. To show film at water week.

- Wind & Solar effects on Landscape. Suggested by Gerry to use info already developed. Oppose dev. on grasslands.
  - Riparian Restoration: 9 km in 4 locations. Brandi H. and Paula M., to show a SEAWA video on Earth Day.
  - Winter Water Art Show: runs to the end of March
  - Water and Riparian Areas Water Art Show March 23 to 28 at MHP Library
  - Possible presentation at Library in March, on Riparian Health.
  - Corlaine spoke re. Echo Dale Dev. Talk at the FL Centre. John, Martha, Gerry and Bob T. attended on behalf of GN. This afternoon meeting discussed possibilities for the Park. Not used as much now. What to do with it? How to connect people with nature? Tonight's drop-in at the FLC, 7-9 pm. will be for general public feed-back. Online survey starts March 6. Survey will be on City website.  
Several parts to Echo Dale Park are: the historic farm, swimming lake, fish lake, boat launch & coulees in back trail.
  - To conclude, Paula Munro reported on Beaver and tree wrapping. Martha will condense this at a later date.
- b. **MHIP/Operations Committee:** Bob Townsend is away. No Report.
- c. **Field Trips and Events** (from Chronicle)
- Sunday, March 1 at 2:00 pm Otter hike (See item 7.IP report above)
  - Winter Walk March 4 at 3:30.Meet at the Nature Centre (See item 7 IP report above).
  - Wed. March 4 at 7:00 pm CS Time. Presentation on Sage Grouse Recovery in Grasslands National Pk. and South of the Divide. (McCord Hall, McCord Sask.) Info. at pcap@sasktel.net
  - March 16 to 30<sup>th</sup> World Water Displays at the Library. Water related movies will be shown at the Library from March 17 to March 22. (March 22 at 2:00 pm Public reception at MHPL for World Water Day entitled "Valuing Water with Art).
  - Saturday, March 21 at 1:00 pm. Join a guided walk in the Prairie Forest to celebrate International Forest Day. Meet at the Nature Centre.
  - Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm Annual General Meeting at the Nature Centre followed by a presentation.
  - Saturday, March 28 from 1 to 4:00 pm the Medicine Hat Public Library presents Seedy Saturday. The IP will have information on Pollinators.
  - Saturday, March 28, Nature Centre event for volunteers.
  - Saturday, March 28 Ben Verner's Annual Trip to Manyberries area. (See Chronicle for details)
  - Tuesdays and Saturdays X-country ski in Elkwater to the end of March. Contact John at [jslater@telusplanet.net](mailto:jslater@telusplanet.net) or cell (403)866-8415 or Home (403)526-7003. Carpooling available. Non-members please sign a waiver form at PP Park Nature Centre or at Walmart parking lot, or at the trailhead.
- d. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Linda Fisher
- Tonight's speaker will be Roxanne Doerksen presenting, "Worms are Awesome".
  - After the AGM, March presenters will be Rob and Corlaine Gardner speaking on their Mauritius Experience.
  - The April speaker will be Paul Von Huene, describing the effects of the June 2010 flood.
  - The May speaker will be Brian Keating. GN members are encouraged to attend his Part 1 presentation at the Esplanade at 7:00 pm on May 25, entitled "Going Wild". Tickets are selling quickly at \$15.00 /ticket.
  - There will be no speaker or General Meeting on June 23, in lieu of the Annual Potluck.
- e. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh. No Report.
- f. **Birding Trails:** Milt. Nothing to Report.
- g. **Bird Tales:** Hugh reported that Dee will be away for approximately two months. Bird Tales will recommence when Dee returns.
- h. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela Turner. Nothing to Report.
9. New Business:
- a. **Two summer jobs with SEAWA** Riparian Restoration. Information at this website <https://GoodWork.ca/908755>
10. Other Business:
- a. **Lifetime Membership:** Jan Scott will be presented with a Life Time Membership at the upcoming AGM.
- b. **City Environmental Master Plan:** Hugh will look after sending this letter from GN to the City.
- c. **Wind Farm:** investigation of reliable information continues with John Slater, Gerry Ehlert and others. Two GN Board members attended the February 13 Dunmore town hall meeting on the proposed Wind Farm project.
- d. **Next Board Meeting:** Tuesday March 3, 7 pm. at Martha & David's house. Hugh will ask Anne Bernhardt to chair this meeting since he will be away.
- e. **Adjournment:** 7:45 pm.
- f. **Refreshment break.**

g. **Program start:** 8:00 pm. Attendance 25. Speaker is Roxanne Doerksen on “Worms are Awesome”