

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
(Draft) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

Police Point Park

Tuesday September 14, 2021, 4:30 pm

1. Call to Order 4:33 p.m.- Phil Horch (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary) Attendance 31
2. Review of September 13, 2020 AGM Minutes. **Moved by Rob Gardner that the 2020 Minutes be amended to show opening balance, income received, total expenses paid, and closing balance.**
Seconded, as amended, by Hugh Armstrong. **CARRIED**
Vote on Approval. **CARRIED.** (See details in **amended AGM Minutes** September 2020)
3. Committee Reports: 2021 Reports are posted on the GN website www.grasslands-naturalists.org under Reports for AGM, and hard copies will be available at the AGM.
Selected reports may be posted in the Sagebrush Chronicle.

- a. **President's Report:** Phil Horch briefly reviewed the past year as President. (See 2021 President's Report).
He touched on how COVID regulations cancelled an entire year of indoor programming, but commented on some major G.N. accomplishments such as the Adopt-a-Pond Initiative, the Scenic Views Project, and the launch of the GN sponsored Climate Change Symposium.
Phil thanked the Board of Directors, the Committees, and Chronicle editor Milt Spitzer for their exceptional efforts over the past year.
In closing, he also thanked departing GN volunteers for their service over the years, and encouraged members to step forward to serve the Society.
Phil moved that this Report be approved. **CARRIED**
- b. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela Turner and Eileen Cowtan. Angela thanked Eileen for a job well done. She gave a brief verbal review of the GN 'Club' Account, the MH Interpretive Account, and the Casino Account. (See entire 2021 Treasurer's Report on the GN website).
Grasslands Naturalists: Angela noted the Club's finances remain sound. Total equity increased slightly by \$1958. to \$23,645.
Casino: Due to COVID-19 Angela reported there was **no casino income** this year. Expenses of \$10,767 were paid out of the Casino account this past year. The Casino fund December 31, 2020 Servus Chequing Account balance is \$1332. (1332+shares 1.10 +GST refund 202.88 =\$1536 as noted by John Slater).
Medicine Hat Interpretive Program:
Angela reported the total equity increased this year by \$27,443 for a final figure of \$185,360.
She noted that approximately \$8,800 of Casino revenue was used to pay for various MHIP expenses.

Financial details are summarized 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. The following details have been included in these Minutes for the 2020 year Jan.1 to Dec.31 because of this amendment:**

1) Opening balance for MHIP-Retained Earnings 2019 is	157,917
Total Income is	255,478
Total Expenses are	228,035
Current Earnings are	27,443
Total Equity as of Dec.31, 2020 is	185,360
2) Opening Balance for GN 'Club'-Retained Earnings 2019 is	21,687
Total Income is	4,804
Total Expenses are	2,846
Current Earnings are	1,958
Total Equity as of Dec.31, 2020 is	23,645

Paul Thibault moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded by Martha Munz Gue. CARRIED
Thank you to Hugh Armstrong and John Slater for reviewing the accounts prior to the AGM.

- c. **Communications Report:** Angela Turner. See report on GN website.
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Hugh Armstrong advised members to see the entire report on the GN Website. He noted that there were 11 applicants for the MHIP positions. He reported that Alicia Lew will act as the new Chief Park Interpreter and Ian Langill will be the new Assistant Chief Park Interpreter. Alicia gave a brief introduction. Unfortunately, Ian was not able to attend because of previous commitments. Hugh reported the Operations Committee is presently 2 people short with Simonne Flynn and Eileen Cowtan stepping down. The next meeting will be October 4. All are welcome. Hugh moved acceptance of this report. **CARRIED**
- e. **MH Interpretive Program:** Corlaine Gardner noted that she and Marty Drut are retiring from their MHIP positions of Chief Interpreter and Assistant Chief Interpreter. Corlaine reported that the MH Kiwanis Club has nominated the Interpretive Program for the Community Spirit Awards for their commitment to education and local programming. The award presentations will be held Oct.20, 2021 at the Esplanade. Phil Horch stepped in to announce further Community Spirit Awards Nominations; to Gerry Ehlert (Environment) and Award of Excellence to Martha Munz Gue, also under Environment. John Slater and Gerry Ehlert were awarded the Alberta Invasive Species Council 2020 EDD award for Invasive Species Reporting.
- f. **Issues Committee:** John Slater and Martha Munz Gue
- g. **Budget Committee:** Paul Thibault
- h. **Governance Committee:** Paul Thibault
- i. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong
- j. **Field Trips Committee:** John Slater
- k. **Indoor Program Committee:** Linda Fisher
- l. **Birding trails Project:** Phil Horch
- m. **Bird Tales Project:** Paul Thibault and Dee Armstrong (Bird Tales was not active due to COVID restrictions).
- n. **Carol Porter Bluebird Trail:** Milt Spitzer. (See Report in September 2021 Chronicle p.12). Not a GN project.
- o. **Nature Alberta:** Angela Turner

Copies of Reports may be seen on the GN website at www.grasslands-naturalists.org
 Moved by John that the above reports be ADOPTED. Seconded by Paul. **CARRIED**

4. 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: Martha Maudsley.

Treasurer: Angela Turner.

Vice President: has remained vacant for over one year.

President: Phil Horch

John moved that nominations cease. **CARRIED.** Congratulations to the new and returning executive officers. Phil thanked John for leading the elections.

5. Other Business:

- a. **Recognition of Corlaine Gardner and Marty Drut.**(See Announcements below- item 6.c)
- b. **Directors Appointments** (to be confirmed at a Board Meeting immediately after the AGM today)
 Past President- Hugh Armstrong
 Directors at Large- Ian Turner and Linda Fisher.
- c. **Committee Volunteers Selection** (Confirmed at Next Board Meeting)
 Committees to meet at the first opportunity to select Chairperson and confirm their Budget.
 - 1. Communications Committee. Phil reported a Chair is needed for this Committee.
 - 2. Budget Committee
 - 3. Governance Committee

4. Issues Committee
5. MHIP Operations Committee. Two positions need to be filled.
6. Field Trips Committee
7. Indoor Program Committee. A Chair is needed at present.
8. Fund Raising

d. Projects (contact names)

Carol Porter Bluebird Trail: Milt Spitzer (Not a GN project)

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

Bird Tales: Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault (Not active due to COVID restrictions).

Butterflies, Dragonflies and More: Dave McKenzie

Wildflowers: Martha Munz Gue

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

e. External Organization Reps (Volunteers to be confirmed at an upcoming Board meeting)

1. Nature Alberta. Brooke Kapeller has moved to Calgary.

2. SEAWA-Tina, Martha Munz Gue

6. Announcements:

- a. Martha Munz Gue: reported on the Weekly Wednesday Walks and the health benefits of walking. The Adopt-a-Pond program is doing well with 20 ponds adopted. Martha proposed that GN and the Interpretive Program adopt the River, since it has not been chosen by any group or individual yet.
- b. John Slater noted that Saturday, September 18 at 9 am volunteers will meet to clean Ranchlands Environmental Reserve and walk at 10 am along the Escarpment trail. Wednesday, September 22 at 9 am is the clean-up date for Strathcona Island Park. Start at the Boat Ramp parking lot. John reminded participants to bring gloves and wear suitable footwear. Bags and trash picker tools will be supplied. All other events are listed in the Chronicle.
- c. Recognition of Corlaine Gardner and Marty Drut (See item #5.a.above Other Business). Hugh stepped up to thank Corlaine and Marty for their distinguished service over the years. All GN members present rose to offer a well-deserved standing ovation. Heartfelt thanks to Corlaine and Marty! (Marty was not able to attend due to previous commitments).
- d. Corlaine spoke about the current Art display at the Nature Centre. She reported that two volunteers from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Mary and Nolan, left last week. They were very helpful at the Transition Medicine Hat project, the Carol Porter Bluebird Trail, as well as mapping Invasive species. She encouraged members to check out their exhibit at the Nature Centre displaying the programs that the two volunteers were involved in.
- e. Milt will be leading a trip Saturday, September 25, 2021 to Schuler and McLaren Lakes. Meet at Medalta parking lot at 8:30 am to leave for the Sandhill Crane trip.
- f. Martha Munz Gue wished Phil a Happy Birthday and GN members shared birthday muffins.
- g. Next regular Board Meeting will be held via Zoom or at Ian and Angela's house at 4:00 pm on Oct.5, 2021
- h. Next General Meeting: **tentatively** scheduled Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 pm at PP Park with cancellation subject to COVID restrictions at that time. An announcement will be posted in October 2021 Chronicle.
- i. Moved that the meeting be Adjourned at 5:30 pm. **CARRIED**
- j. Short Board Meeting to be held right after this AGM to appoint a Past President and Members at Large.

