

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2022 4:00 pm via zoom

1. **Call to Order:** 4:21 pm. Members present: Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Linda Fisher, Corlaine Gardner, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Munz Gue, Phil Horch, Martha Maudsley
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from September 6, 2022 adopted as written
3. **Business Arising From The Minutes**
 - * **Email communications - Corlaine** per her email. **4 main ways of communication including Chronicle, Website** (but how much is it used)? **Facebook** is more for the public to see. Tina Regehr runs it and it needs to be active. Not enough to put just walks, activities and programs. Should consider putting community building information including webinars, Need board direction on how much. Corlaine suggests not putting all the details of events on FB. They should have to sign up or follow up. Focus on prairies and things pertaining to our club. Members need to provide material including photos. **Emails** our treasurer gets emails, cheques but should not be responsible for recruiting, etc. Who makes email lists? Angela can forward the list to Corlaine. Who should be allowed to have the lists/send things out? Lists are needed by other members such as Linda for zoom meetings. Phil should have. Ian disagrees and says if someone needs something sent out it should only go through Corlaine/communications. Corlaine thinks Angela can keep lists up to date through memberships. Ian says spam and junk emails have been coming in from members' emails asking for money. Phil says he is receiving them too. **CHECK SENDER BEFORE OPENING ANY EMAIL** to see if it's a proper email (address). Phil will check with Paul to see if there's any way to block spam.
 - * **Field Trip Re Non-members - Corlaine** non members need to sign waivers for walks and this needs to be consistent. Other clubs don't let nonmembers participate in their activities. **We will tighten up on this for field trips/walks.**
 - * **Field Trip Difficulty Ratings - Ian** contacted 3 people to participate (John Milt Martha MG) but no hurry to get this done this year
 - * **Youth Recruitment - Phil** meeting with Gerry Elhert and Alicia Lew to participate at MHC with Brent Smith. Ger's made an outline, he and Alicia made up a poster. Brent thinks to expect 30 students. Martha's meeting with 3rd year students and can bring information to them. Martha thinks there needs to be a sub group for youth recruitment.
 - * **Finance policies - Phil** still needs to follow up with Paul and will give a report in the future.
4. **New Business**
 - * **GN Facebook Postings - Linda** Is Corlaine going to summarize and present to the board? No. This was the discussion and the committee will do the work to set up policy.
 - * **City of MH Healthy Committee Forum - Martha Gue** we are invited for Oct. 12/22 at Echo Dale presentations. Martha asked if we could participate and was told there is a time for discussion and networking. Corlaine hopes Alicia / MHIP is invited. Hugh thinks yes.
 - * **Shoreline Access Issue - Martha Gue** 1st street/Riverside. People own properties to the shoreline and some have extended their yards. Signs have been posted by the

Parks department indicating it is private. We walked there no problem. Worries that owners may try to extend their fencelines. Martha MG asks if GN buys copies of AB Environment Stepping Back from The Water to put in homeowners mailboxes. Phil says this needs to be discussed by the issues committee (but there's currently no chair so cannot).

* **Russian Olive Initiatives - Martha Gue** use of white ribbons to identify Russian olives and start raising awareness and promote discussion. Not official with the city, or SEAWA. Corlaine would like to see it as a SEAWA project. Martha MG would like it to be collaborative. Linda wonders what the city's reaction is to trees on city land having ties on them. She wants the city brought in so it won't damage our relationship. **Martha to talk to Dave Genio at the city.** Phil says we need to talk to our members. **Martha to write a letter for the Chronicle.**

* **Indigenous Acknowledgement - Phil, Linda** continue to work on wording and remove the use of the word 'neighbours'.

* **Hybrid Meetings Update** suggests using 2 computers. Can Angela send out the GN treasurers' laptop to use? Hugh asks if it's password protected. Quickbooks is. Linda suggests running this by Paul. Corlaine wonders what happens if the treasurer is gone long term? Who can access it? Phil says there should be a backup person with access to Quickbook passwords. Password to be given to Martha KM and Linda Fisher. Martha KM has the Idrive password. Ian suggests doing the entire Oct. 25 meeting via zoom so that Linda doesn't have to set up a hybrid meeting. Linda says this speaker really wants to do this live so will try doing this hybrid.

* **Veiner Centre display table for GN Fall Fair - Phil** - We will need one or two volunteers to attend our display on Oct. 20 from 11 to 1pm. **Phil to approach John and Hazel to see if they want to be there.**

* **MHIP Budget Approval and Report - Hugh** sent the proposed budget as email and it's basically finished. Now done every 2 years. City prepared to give us 4% on top of the 2022 value. Alicia used this value to go from \$180 000 to \$187 000. Slight (\$5000) deficit as Alicia was liberal with expenses to make sure there were potential figures to use. Hugh says if you look we can absorb the deficit. We're looking at a generous hourly raise of \$2/hour to help with retention as well as for Alicia 4% raise for 2023. Linda asked about casino funds and insurance - no to insurance. Ian would like to see casino money budgeted rather than being used as a slush fund. **Corlaine moves to accept the budget with a message of appreciation for good work for the committee!** All in favour/carried. City wants participation in healthy communities added to the contract so Hugh will work on that.

* **Membership Recruitment - Corlaine**

* **GN Scam Events see above**

* **Use of GN Laptop - Ian/Angela see hybrid meetings update**

5. Committee Reports

a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela - Major expenses were Hyland's presentation and printing for college. Chequing \$8,539.49

Savings \$16,701.55 Casino funds used for Wildflower brochures, MHIP ads in the MH News, and MHIP ad in the MH Tourism magazine for a total of \$2632.81. The balance in the Casino account is \$11,620.91

- b. **Membership:** Angela 37 individual, 41 families, 8 lifetime which is up from previous years. If you join now it's a 2023
- b. **Correspondence:** letter from Make a Wish asking for a contribution. No.
- b. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Hugh see above

- e. **Issues Committee:** as above. Met with Nature Alberta regarding Irrigation situation and expansion.
- e. **Indoor Committee:** Linda gave a hats off to David Ian, Angela and Phil figuring out how to conduct hybrid zoom meetings from the Nature Centre - had 3, 2-3 hour meetings thank you to all! Linda had a brief discussion with Angela, then decided on a \$100 stipend for Hyland as the next 2 months speakers either chose not to charge us as we are a nonprofit group, or they are a government employee. Bought last of Police Point Park logoed thermoses and 4 Prairie River books for future speaker gifts. October speaker Dr. James Byrne - Integrating ecosystems, agriculture, renewable energy development in S. AB and beyond. For 2023 AGM she may contact Dr. Leroy Little Bear from U of Lethbridge; for April 2023 possibly Members Night/pecha kucha style with members who volunteered.
- e. **Fundraising Committee:** nothing now

- h. **Field Trip Committee:** tomorrow is Somerset Pond tomorrow adopted by Ian Langel . Other dates in the Chronicle. Phil doing a bird walk Oct. 15 to Murray Lake and Sauder Reservoir.
- h. **Communications Committee:** see above
- h. **Birding Trails:** n/a
- h. **Nature Alberta:** n/a
- h. **Budget:** Hugh says when you put your report in the Chronicle get them in this month as November the committee goes over them.

6. **Other Business:** Linda sees the money has come in from Donna McLean fund so we need to think how to spend it. Angela says it usually goes into general funds. Linda says in the past we have bought things like the projector at the Nature Centre and new chairs. Martha suggests using her named area and sponsor an art weekend in her honour. This year it's \$820, last year \$710. In the past \$900. It's an investment so it varies. Corlaine suggests radios as the ones we have are old. **Ian and Milt to look into radios.**

- a. **Adjournment** 6:28 pm
- b. **Next Board Meeting** November 1, 4pm via zoom