

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING

January 3 , 2023 3:00 pm

at Phil's home #214 2992 15th Avenue SE

1. **Call to Order:** 3:05 pm. Members present: Phil Horch, Angela Turner, Martha Munz Gue, Corlaine Gardner, Ian Turner, Linda Fisher, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Maudsley absent: n/a Guests: Paul Thibault
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from December 6, 2022 adopted, carried
3. **Business Arising From The Minutes**

* **Issues Committee Chair** - Phil: back to co-chairs of Martha MG and John Slater, who are willing to serve as mentors for anyone interested in taking on the position.

* **GN History Committee** - Phil : Dennis Baresco approached as possibility

* **Walkie Talkie Purchase** - Ian : awaiting budget approval

* **Pro Bono Lawyer** - Phil - Simon Hersey approached, left message.

* **Irrigation Letters to Govt.** - Phil : Gerry wrote letters to cabinet ministers and bureaucrats. Martha MG attempting a meeting with her MLA Danielle Smith.

* **Action Land Open House** - Phil: attended their open house. Says there's lots of 'our kind of people'. He handed out our brochure made by David Gue. Martha MG wonders if we need to have an open house to invite groups like this to our group.

* **State of City Event** - Phil: planning to attend. Most of the City council will be there. Martha MG will be there too.

* **Bird Friendly City Event** - Phil, Angela and Ian Turner: have planned an event. Dan Schiebelbein is planning a bird watching event

4. **New Business**

* **2023 GN Budget Approval** - Paul: went over the process of budgeting. Discussion and explanation of issues such as renewing insurance. Stated the importance of having a copy of the actual contract from the City for things like the insurance. For 2023, it is essentially a balanced budget. The big concern was insurance which was ok, and if there's new committees. So long as we get 2 casinos every 3 years as we have in the past we are good. Ian asked about being approved for walkie talkies. This was approved by the board but not budgeted. **Motion to adopt Budget as amended. All in favour, carried.**

* **Invasives Committee & Budget** - Paul: No funds were allocated for this because the committee must first be formed by the Board before submitting a budget to the Budget Committee

* **Bylaws Hard Copies Update** - Paul: **will produce hard copies for January meeting.** Will highlight changes in green. Will be presented at the next general meeting (will be given in January, voted on in Feb.). People on zoom cannot vote (until the bylaws are changed).

* **Copyright Issue** - Phil: hard copy sent to Nature centre saying copyright issue.. After investigation, a settlement was paid. Don't assume any image is permitted. Our Policies

and Procedures (P&Ps) describe how to deal with copyright issues. **If you are chairing a committee, have this conversation with your group.**

* **Communications Committee P&P** - Corlaine & Paul: **Corlaine would like everyone to keep email chains to 1 topic.** Paul notes we need to revise policies and procedures. We need to know what the mandate is. Concerns about timeliness of Chronicle. It goes out as soon as it's available at the printer. This may take longer if we now need someone to edit it for possible legal issues. **Communications committee to monitor Chronicle.**

* **GN Awareness at Nature Center** - Phil, Hugh: If Alicia is on it, it will happen!

* **GN Reports & Distribution** - Phil, Paul: What kind of reports need to go to all members? That's the function of the newsletter and website (especially for big items).

* **GN Business Cards** - Phil, Paul moved to next meeting

* **Call for Nominations** - has to go into January Chronicle

* **Annual Reports due** - deadline February 15th, for AGM March 28th

* **Lifetime Membership nominations** - needs to go into the Chronicle. Phil will look after this.

5. Committee Reports

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| Treasurer's | Report: | Angela |
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- **Chequing \$8,974.52 Savings \$16,771.11 Casino \$10,269.54** Angela to go to banks and find out rates on GICs. **Motion to adopt Financial reports, carried.**

* **Membership**- Angela 50 individuals 42 family 8 lifetime members.

* **Correspondence:** Angela none

* **MHIP Operations Committee:** Signed new bookkeeping contract. Got the new City contract. At present: 112% income, 96 % of expenses as projected in the budget.

* **Issues Committee:** World water day March 20 goal for Adopt a Pond people to say if they'll stay on and spring clean their site. Martha MG to ask if they want help identifying plants. College Education professors ask students to do lesson plans on invasives. **There's a SEAWA forum in March. See that's put in the Chronicle. Invasive species-Ger and John see above**

* **Adopt a Pond or Path Initiative-Martha MG:** see above

* **Transition MH-Rob:** Corlaine website still active, send him an email to see what his thoughts are. Rob is looking for positive things to put in a gallery. Possible speaker opportunity? The space in the Chronicle can be available.

* **Climate-Genevieve** n/a

* **Indoor Committee:** Linda checked with the library re possible AGM meeting rooms and found they don't take bookings until February 15 (after making available internally). She hasn't checked with Med Hat College yet. Linda is looking for a Russian olive expert as a speaker, please email right away with suggestions.

* **Fundraising Committee:** no

* **Field Trip Committee:** walks to start again Jan. 11/23

* **Communications Committee:** Ian Langil has ideas of things to include on Facebook page. Discussion. Paul suggests a survey be done to see what people want on the page.

* **Birding Trails:** n/a

* **Nature Alberta:** Angela says NA is posting our newsletter on their page. Martha MG says they sent books to Pond and Coulees art show.

6. **Other Business:**

7. **Adjournment** at 5:44 pm

8. **Next Board Meeting** at Martha MG home 107 Hamilton Court NE Feb. 7/23 at 3:45