

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING

March 7 , 2023 4:00 pm

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

1. **Call to Order:** 4 pm. Members present: Corlaine Gardner, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Maudsley, Martha Munz Gue, Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Phil Horch, Linda Fisher absent: n/a Guests: Gerry Ehlert, Paul Thibault
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from February 8, 2023. Adopted as is, all in favour, carried.
3. **AGM activities & Nominations - Phil, John** - Phil made a first draft of an agenda. No nominations yet. Hybrid meeting but to vote you must come in person to the Nature Centre (make this clear in Chronicle announcement). Angela to send out a membership list to assist with recruitment of board..
4. **Bylaws Revisions follow-up - Paul** - Alberta Society Registry (Societies Act) checklist requires more items including admission standards, rights and responsibilities of members, grounds for expulsion, quorums, proxy, who keeps minutes/ seal among other things. Paul sees we need written policies and procedures for dealing with agencies including Revenue Canada. Need another Governance meeting in March and the goal is to have a hard copy out in April. **Paul to follow up on this.**
5. **MHIP contract negotiations - Paul - who pays for the legal fees, the club or MHIP?** - Hugh says the final contract has been executed. Paul suggests we need a safety deposit box for policies, insurance, contracts. \$493.50 in legal fees. **Hugh motions MHIP pays ¾ of the legal bill. All in favour, passed.**
6. **Environmental Framework Ad-Hoc Committee - Phil, Martha Gue** - need to determine how we will respond when contacted on this by the consulting company. 2 or 3 to work on this written presentation, but only 1 needs to meet with consultants. Martha MG suggests it should be an ad hoc committee. Needs to be an environmental framework rather than a master plan. Gerry would like to participate and is prepared. Gerry suggests asking a city council member to help. **Phil to work with Gerry and to ask Marty Drut to participate. Motion to strike an Environmental Framework ad hoc committee. All in favour, carried.**
7. **MH Solar Farm Issue - Gerry - MH Solar Farm Issue - Gerry - (Saamis Solar Project)** Gerry sent everyone an email with his report. Concern is that the Saamis solar development may be built on native grasslands. If so, this can negatively impact plants and animals, including endangered species and other values. Brownfield and tame pasture land in the project area is a better location. Board and Gerry discussed if GN should be involved in submitting concern to the AUC. To do so requires further thought and support from GN membership. The Board discussed support for solar development on lands such as Brownfields. -Gerry suggests calling the AUC help desk to find out the timeline. Phil to call AUC . Gerry to write something (a letter to the editor) for Chronicle asking for individuals who live within 800 m of the project site to consider sending in their concerns to AUC before the soon deadline date. Hugh to talk to Scott Richter Parks department about GN possible interest in filing a SIP to AUC. Phil to call AUC .
8. **Eileen Cowtan Event - Corlaine** - firepit and theatre booked for Saturday April 29th 4pm.

9. **Trail Difficulty application - Ian** - done! Had gone to Paul to be reviewed by Governance and in turn into Field Trip Policy and Procedure. Should be able to start using it soon. Corlaine suggests reminding people there needs to be guidelines followed by leaders of field trips. **Phil to talk about it in the President's report. Ian to send an email to field trip leaders with an attachment reminding them they can make use of it.**
10. **Adopt-A-Pond Future - Martha Gue** - n/a deferred until next meeting

11. **Treasurer's Report: Angela** -insurance and ad paid from **Casino- bank balance is \$ 8491.79**

savings \$ 16812.70

\$6812.70 left in savings after \$10 000 in GIC

Chequing \$ 7637.35

Treasurer's report adopted and carried as is.

12. **Membership- Angela-** 54 individuals 51 family 7 lifetime members.
13. **Correspondence** n/a
14. **Communications** Corlaine represented GN with a booth at SEAWA conference, met many folks and everyone was happy to work together. Well attended (sold out). Good discussion.
15. **Indoor Program – Linda** - March 28 - AGM Marilou Montemayor - Russian Olive tree – an invasive ecological weed in SE Alberta. What would be an appropriate speaker gift? Prairie River book. April 25 - Members' Night - (Pecha Kucha format with 7 members presenting), May 23 - Brent Smith - Tree and ecological site mapping completed for the entire municipal area. June 27 - Annual picnic - suggestions needed. September/November general meeting dates open for presenters.
16. **Nature Network news** - n/a
17. **Field Trips** - Phil, Milt, Martha, John n/a
18. **MHIP Operations Committee** - Hugh and Alicia/Ian L. - Hugh says contract signed, sealed, delivered.
19. **Fund-Raising** – Hugh- August 5 and 6 casino
20. **Issues:** Martha, John, (and Jesse, Dawn, Cathy) see above
21. **Other Business** - Ian is resigning from the Methanex advisory panel and hoping to join the Operations committee.
22. **Adjournment** 6:16pm

Next Board Meeting April 4 Hugh to host 15 Partridge Street NE at 4pm