

**Society of Grasslands Naturalists
Annual General Meeting
Police Point Park Nature Center
Tuesday, March 28, 2023, 6:30 PM**

1. Call to order – Phil Horch (Chair) 31 attending in person, 9 online

2. Indigenous Declaration

3. Presentation of Honorary Lifetime Membership – John Slater nominated Rob and Corlaine Gardner. Many examples of their work in Medicine Hat were mentioned including their forming and maintaining the Nature Centre and other programs since arriving here in 1982.

4. Review and Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes held June 28/22 . Financial statement corrected online. All in favour, carried.

5. Announcements Martha MG asks anyone who is adopting a pond to let her know. Bruce McLeod reminds us of casino nights Sat. August 5 and Sun. August 6 needs volunteers. Annual Manyberries birdwatching Sat. April 1 meet at Walmart parking lot. John says Wednesday morning walks are currently meeting at the Nature Centre 10am. Earth Day spring cleanup April 22 presented by Parks department with BBQ afterwards. Keep your eyes to the Chronicle for further information. April 29th get together for a Memorial for Eileen Cowtan.

6. AGM Reports

President's Report – Phil Horch - Pleased that GN was able to function during COVID because of hybrid meetings. New city contract and insurance were negotiated for 5 years. GN showed active advocacy including being named as a stakeholder in the city's Master Environmental Plan. Irrigation upgrades and expansion in consortium with other groups. Advocating for the protection of native grasslands in Sustainable energy projects. Actively addressing invasive plant species. Creating awareness with the Scenic Views project. New effort in becoming a Bird Friendly City. Membership is our highest ever at 162. Finances are strong. Concern expressed that programs are not being addressed due to lack of volunteers. To keep up, we need new people to step up to carry on our heritage.

Treasurer's Report – Angela Turner - **GN total equity** of \$25,501.09 (decrease - \$276.17) Casino equity \$10,293.36 (increase \$9,685.69) Donation from MH Kiwanis Club \$3,500.

Expenses include MH News ads \$3,861. Printing resources \$360. Ad in MH Tourism \$985. Wildflower brochures \$1,219.

Financial Reviewer's Report – Milt Spitzer - books look good; neat and well done. No concerns.

MHIP Report – Alicia Lew and Hugh Armstrong - Alicia noted many changes due to retirement of previous team and formation of new team. Currently have 5 staff. Continue running school programs among others including the 1st post pandemic birthday party. Concern expressed that to maintain the best staff the wages need to be made competitive and liveable. Hugh noted total revenue of \$260,987.75. Total expense \$249,347.87. Net income \$11,639.88. Equity \$170,442.90. Discussed negotiating city contract and insurance. Discussion and questions.

Other reports: Reports for the 2022 year are posted on the GN website at : <https://grasslands-naturalists.org/for-members/>

Some hard copies were available at AGM **Motion to adopt all reports as presented. Carried.**

7. Elections: John Slater – Election Facilitator

President: Phil Horch nominated

Vice-President: Paul Thibault nominated

Treasurer Angela Turner nominated

Secretary Martha Maudsley nominated

As no other nominations were received, the above positions were acclaimed.

Indoor Program Presentation – Linda Fisher

Guest Speaker – Marilou Montemayor – Topic “Russian Olive Tree – An Invasive Ecological Weed In SE Alberta”

Thank-you to speaker and close meeting – Linda Fisher