

# SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING

May 2, 2023 4:00 pm

1. Call to order - Paul Present: Paul Thibault, Angela Turner, Corlaine Gardner, Sheila McLeod, Linda Fisher, Hugh Armstrong, Ian Turner, Martha Maudsley. Absent: Phil Horch, Martha Munz Gue

2. Review and adoption of the minutes April 4/23 - Paul - **minutes adopted with corrections to Member's Night and to remove meeting addresses.**

3. Adopted minutes April 20/23 special meeting - **Motion that  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority in Clauses 3.1.4 and 4.5.4 be changed to  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority. All in favour, carried.**

4. Business arising from the minutes (if any) - Paul - an exciting sighting by Phil of cardinals (Ontario).

## Business

5. Strategic Planning and Board Development (CDU Webinars) - Paul - has been attending. Most are on YouTube. Karen Blewett is a rep here in town we could meet and get one on one advice.

6. New Business Model Discussion - Paul - We need to come up with a minimum requirement of what the society needs to survive. Currently there is an overwhelming belief that the President needs to do all the things past presidents have done which scares people off from taking the role. Needs to happen in May. There can be a discussion of the vision, mission, and mandate of GN. Club needs to talk about why we are a club? What are we doing? **Meeting to discuss vision/mission and minimum duties for various positions Wednesday May 10 4pm. Paul to start on agenda. At Paul's place.**

7. Membership payment methods - Paul - need to be able to do this online. This will make it easier for people to join. Discussion. Should Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta be included with a membership? Hand them out at meetings? Inform Interpretive staff that there's still a suggested donation for non-members. **Motion that all new and current members are entitled to a free copy of the Birding Trails of Southeastern Alberta. All in favour, carried.**

8. Nature Alberta Representative Status - Paul - attended the meeting. Need for reps to represent all the (5) clubs. He would call them and find out what we have in common. Communication is always good. Find out why they don't want to deal with issues. Find out how other reps (from North, etc.) handle their different issues. Paul will attend the rep meeting to gather information.

9. GN Filing Cabinet Status - Paul -We need to keep important documents safe in one place. \$130 lock available for filing cabinet. Hugh and Angela will look if we use casino funds? It's a capital expense. **Motion to allocate maximum \$200 to purchase of locking bar and lock for filing cabinet, preferably paid from Casino funds or discretionary funds. All in favour, carried.**

10. Adopt-A-Pond Future - Martha Gue not here

11. Strong Towns update - Phil not here

12. Saamis Solar Farm Update - Hugh - contacted Scott Richter from Parks, who replied that he will get back as soon as possible.

## Committee Reports

13. Treasurer's Report (Includes membership and Correspondence)- Angela **Casino \$8,590.81** We received a \$1,000 donation from Kiwanis. Alicia sends a thank you note. **Chequing \$11,211.32, Savings \$6,830.72, GIC \$10,000.** Suggestion to put another \$5000 in GIC. Paul suggests looking at the budget to see what budget requirements are. **Motion to put up to**

**\$5000 in GIC depending on budget requirements for this year period. All in favour, carried.**

14. Communications - Corlaine - Memorial weiner roast for Eileen. Her family has donated a Donna McLean painting to GN. Wondering what plans GN has for it? Need to get an appraisal.

**Motion to hang Donna McLean painting donated by Eileen's son Michael Cowtan at the Nature Centre with a plaque.** Corlaine to look into plaque. All in favour. Carried. Hugh and Corlaine to look into wording.

15. MHIP - Hugh - Will need to have 2 operations committee meetings, on June 12 and in September, to get the budget drawn up before Alicia is vacationing in September. Alicia gave Paul a spreadsheet on wages other Alberta interpretive program staff earn.

16. Indoor Program - Linda- Members Night Hybrid Zoom presentations were highly successful and really enjoyed by all. Thanks to Angela for stepping in to cover. Huge Thanks to David Gue for all of his technical help gathering all of the 7 speakers' photos and spending the whole weekend setting them up as slideshows on the laptop. Will plan to have one Members Night per year. May 23 speaker - Brent Smith- Ecology, Human Footprint and Tree cover of MH. He will discuss the mapping tool he has created, interesting data and it will also be very helpful for GN to meaningfully contribute to ongoing local MH projects we are taking part in. June 27- Annual June Potluck picnic supper discussion. Linda to book the back patio at the Nature Centre as a backup in case of poor weather that evening, other possible locations for the Potluck will be discussed at the June Board meeting.

17. Field Trips - Phil & Martha Gue not here.

18. Fund-Raising - Hugh n/a

19. Issues - not here

#### **Other Business**

**Adjournment 6:08 pm**

**Next Board Meeting May 30th at Angela and Ian's place at 4pm**