

Grasslands Naturalists Society

Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 30, 2023
Turner's Home at 4 PM

1. **Call to order – Phil present: Phil Horch, Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Linda Fisher, Corlaine Gardner, Hugh Armstrong, Paul Thibault. Absent: Martha Munz Gue, Sheila MacLeod**
2. **Review and adoption of the minutes from May 2, 2023 accepted with changes. All in favour. Motion to adopt minutes from May 10/23 special meeting; all in favour.**
3. **Business Arising from the minutes n/a**

Business

4. **Strategic Planning next step – Paul** - Good response from members. Discussion over 'a' voice vs 'the' voice. Also 'southeastern Alberta' vs more local. Consider adding the word 'leading'? Will look at the Nature Centre's vision statement prepared by Alicia as a guideline. Ian suggests that when there is extra business at a general meeting, we need to start earlier (as we do at the AGM). If we're regularly not getting to agenda items on time, we need to start earlier. Corlaine suggests saying coffee's on at 6:15 pm. Angela suggests having goodies ahead of the meeting. Will try that in September.
5. **GN Storage Plan – Phil & Paul**- where and how can we store our stuff? Is there room in the sea can? There's room for 2 boxes. Corlaine has the tablecloth. Corlaine will look at the box from the Nature Centre and see what to do with it. Paul has a box of minutes from Eileen Cowtan which hopefully will be digitized at Esplanade. Phil purged/organized the file cabinet before COVID but did not complete the job. **Sometime in July, Paul can make room in the file cabinet for brochures, etc. Ask Dennis Baresco and Martha KM to help. Paul also to work on putting contracts on cloud storage.**
6. **GN PR Activities – Spectrum and Towne Square – Corlaine** - we've not been approached for Spectrum. Nothing planned for May 31 Towne Square. Interpretive Program interested in participating but the dates aren't good for them. What about the Farmer's Market? Corlaine can look into it.
7. **June Potluck Event – Linda** - Always a wonderful time for good food and visiting. Will be held at the Nature Centre at Police Point, in case of poor weather. 6 pm start time. Bring a dish of your choice, (main course, a salad, or a dessert for sharing). Also bring a chair, cutlery and a plate. Coffee and tea will be available.
8. **Bird Friendly City – On Website**- Can it be put on? Communications will discuss. Consider having an extended Chronicle for extended articles, such as those too long for Chronicle. Put the website link in Chronicle 'for more information' rather than sending out emails. Let members know they can write something up for the website.

9. **Nature Alberta Representation - Paul-** been to 2 meetings. Paul will join these both zone clubs, and SEAWA and SAGE. Paul will attend Metis Cultural festival workshop June 8-11 'The Hills are Alive held at the Eagles Nest Ranch'.
10. **Hybrid indoor program status - Linda-** the hybrid meetings can be difficult to manage due to complicated tech requirements such as multiple laptops, cameras, microphones. It's a lot for 1 person to manage. Need more members that can set things up. **Ian, Linda and Paul will get together to discuss options before the September 26, 2023 meeting.**
11. **Future Board Mtg Locations - Hugh, Paul-** will talk with Alicia over summer as a staff member will have to stay late 1x/month for our meetings.

Committee Reports

12. **Treasurer's Report – Angela-** BALANCES casino \$8109.82 GN chequing \$ 6445.57 savings \$ 6830.72 \$ 10 000 in 15 month GIC, \$ 5 000 in 12 month GIC SE Alberta Birding guide income is up to \$900. Future plans? Phil intends to redo the birding checklist, and the guide itself can be redone.
13. **Membership Report – Angela** 59 individuals, 52 family, 9 lifetime
14. **Correspondence – Angela** none
15. **Communications – Corlaine -** accepting recommendations for summer reading list for Chronicle by Friday.
16. **MHIP Operations – Hugh -** meeting June 12. Paul appointed as an ex-officio member Discussing staffing and pay.
17. **Fund-Raising/Casino – Hugh -** get names in to Bruce to volunteer August 5 and 6. Phil will push this at potluck.
18. **Indoor Program – Linda -** Potluck to start at 6. Discussion of possible upcoming speaker ideas.
19. **Field Trips – Phil, Martha Gue -** Cypress Hills birding led by Phil, meet at Walmart at 7 am June 24.
20. **Issues Committee – Phil, Martha -** WSP environmental framework meeting today. Gerry is our rep. Public meeting right now/ open house.

Other Business: Federal Tree program (from Nature Canada) concern with government not following through with plan to plant 2 million trees. SEAWA is a part of this. **Sample letter included to send from GN. Phil to follow up.** Paul suggests looking into a pilot project planting native plants on the boulevards. Similar to adopt a tree program: if you want to naturalize your boulevard sign up. Make a proposal to the Parks department?

Adjournment 5:54 pm

Next Board Meeting – To be determined by Chair as needed or September 5, 2023