

MINUTES
Grasslands Naturalists Society Board
Police Point Park Nature Centre
Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 4:00 PM

1. **Call to order** - Phil 4:06 pm
2. **Roll Call** Phil Horch, Corlaine Gardner, Hugh Armstrong, Linda Fisher, Sheila MacLeod, Martha Munz Gue, Paul Thibault, Martha Maudsley. Absent: Ian and Angela Turner
3. **Adoption of Minutes for Tuesday, May 30, 2023 carried**, all in favour.
4. **Business arising from Minutes**

NEW BUSINESS

5. **Bundled Agenda Items**

- A. **Financial Report** – Approval needed question regarding ‘retained earnings’\$3813.91. Ask to get a cumulative statement for the whole year. **Adopted subject to Question about retained earnings being answered by treasurer. Carried** all in favour. Have we decided how to spend the Donna MacLean Fund amount this year?
 - B. **Budget Committee Report** - Scenic Views and Invasive Species Committee Budgets - Approval Needed. Move to accept, **carried**. All in favour.
 - C. **Governance Committee Report** – report accepted.
 - D. **Communications Report** – report accepted.
 - E. **Scam email report** – Phil - report accepted.
 - F. **Martha’s Report** – report accepted – Includes Adopt-A-Pond Wiener Roast, Weekly Nature Walks, RO & Other Invasives, Networking with Pheasants Forever, etc and McCoy High School meeting. **Hot dog roast approval under discretionary fund up to \$100. All in favour, carried**. Ask that we think of people to take over from Marilou to organize public activities such as weed pulls on Earth Day and the like.
 - G. Phil out of town – Sept 7-20. **Paul Thibault and Linda Fisher to represent GN at Marilou’s retirement from SEAWA at a luncheon September 14 2023.**
 - H. **Chief Interpreter’s Job Description** – Approval needed. All in favour, **carried**.
 - I. **Indoor Program Speaker’s Schedule** – report accepted
6. **Veronica Swann recognition** - Phil Acknowledgement in President’s report in the Chronicle.
7. **Vital Signs Award** - Phil, this is put on by Community foundations. We could nominate someone.
8. **New Indoor Program Meeting Format** – Hybrid as well? – Linda, Paul. New start time at 6:30 pm - social time. 7 pm - Part 1 Business Meeting (Exciting sightings, announcements not in Chronicle, Interpretive Program, President’s report). 7:30 - 8:30pm - Speaker presentation.

8:30 - 9 pm - Part 2 Business meeting, including time for a monthly discussion topic for members to participate in. Suggestion for discussion - **Sheila MacLeod to create a write up for Chronicle** to stimulate discussion on deciding whether we are mostly for education or education and issues. Both centering around appreciating nature and socializing. Why do you come to meetings? What do you want to do as a group? Talk about having another survey and possible questions. Climate change - a chance to get our members speaking out on the pause on renewables and also after Richard Schneider's November 28 presentation? Are these discussions meant to decide GN's positions on topics?

9. **Board Mtg Location – Phil looked into using common rooms at Chinook Village/ Garden lounge.** \$25/month. No screen for computer display. Move to have the next Board meeting at the Garden Lounge at Chinook Village. All in favour, **carried**. Linda to bring snacks! TREX is also available for free.

10. **Casino Report** – Hugh finds out how much we get in October. It was busy on Saturday, less so Sunday.

11. **Issues Committee Need & Discussion** – Phil, Paul – Response to new committee requests (e.g. Energy Project Pause, Pollinator Friendly City, Northlands Pond Issue, & others). Right now we really don't have an Issues Committee. We have several special interest committees. This makes it difficult for the Board and the President. We need a new structure with an Issues Committee that is managing all these special interests: doing research, determining priorities and then bringing the proposal to the Board. They could act as a Spokesperson. Phil is highlighting this in his President's report hoping someone will step up. We need to look at the big picture as many of these committees' needs overlap. Maybe have a coordinator/facilitator of issues? Someone who does not have a special interest/position.

12. **Storage Space and Records** – Paul, Phil. Issue is we have a locked filing cabinet for important documents. Paul tried to weed it out but the materials were from before his time and so he had no idea of what to keep. Should it be kept for historical purposes? Some have items at their homes such as Eileen's materials. Alicia says they have no room. Rent space? Paul thinks that starts at \$60. Maybe we could split it with IP. There are grants available through Historical society to write histories. Put a call out to the History club. Lorraine and Jim Marshall are involved with the Medicine Hat Historical Society. **Phil to phone Jim Marshall.**

13. **Informed Consent Requirements for GN and MHIP** – Paul. Insurance was difficult to obtain, especially because of rentals of cross country skis. We don't have informed consent forms for school programs and cross country skiing at the present time.

14. **Halloween Parking Event** - Hugh. Saturday October 28th starts about 4pm. **Need help with parking. Let Hugh know if you are able to help.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS to follow as required or offered

15. **Motion to adjourn 6 pm**

16. **Next meeting October 3 at 4:00 pm – Garden Lounge Chinook Village**