

Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 – 4 p.m.

Garden Lounge – Chinook Village

1. Call to order 4pm
2. Roll Call present: Phil Horch, Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Corlaine Gardner, Paul Thibault, Martha Maudsley, Martha Munz Gue, Linda Fisher absent: Sheila McLeod
3. Review and adoption of minutes from Tuesday, September 5, 2023.
Adopted as is, all in favour, carried.
4. Business Arising from Minutes
5. New Business
 - A. Approval of bundled reports - All in favour, carried.
 - Issues Report: Scenic Views, Invasive Species, Environmental Framework, RO Task Force – Gerry Ehlert
 - Nature Alberta – Paul
 - Strong Towns – Paul
 - Communications Committee Report - Corlaine
 - B. Review of new Indoor Program format – All - discussion. Some tech issues to be resolved. We should follow this for October and give it a few months. **Need for a refreshment schedule for set up/cleanup. Linda will take care of sending that out.**
 - B. Reports on GN Website – Which Ones – Phil & Paul - include website link in email sent out for meetings etc. Website is open to the public so must be mindful that what is posted on there can be seen by everyone. Possibilities could include an extended Chronicle available online, a blog, creation of an 'Issues' section? Include annual reports but no need for regular 'progress' reports. Suggestion to start small: encourage letters to the editor, position papers can be assigned a place online. Need to be thought out and approved by the Board. **Corlaine to talk to Milt about reserving room in Chronicle for letters to editor.**
 - B. **Cross Country Skiing Liability Issue** – Paul & Phil- Aging equipment. Is the amount of rental worth it? If we continue, we can use casino funds. Operations Committee discussed it and so is being brought to Board. We are under contract to Parks Department then more money needs to be

- put in such as for a dedicated staff person and renovations needed to access things safely. Need to have someone to inspect equipment. Need to sign waivers. Snowshoes are also a concern. What do we do with the equipment? Need to go more in depth with Alicia and staff with what they'd like. Decision needs to be made before the season starts. **Motion that there not be any cross country skiing equipment rentals initiated this year until this liability issue is resolved. All in favour, carried.**
- B. GN Storage Need – Paul - cabinet is meant for things to be archived but is full of old things. Discussion. **Move to store materials at Rhino on a month to month at \$50/month. All in favour, carried.**
Motion - GN approaches AB Historical Society towards investing in possibilities of what the grant process is for historical society grants. All in favour, carried. Hugh to carry out.
- F. Irrigation District “No Trespassing” implications – Phil - several sites now closed/chained off. Means that GN cannot go there as a group/field trip.
- F. Discussion Topic For Oct Indoor Program – Issues or No Issues – Phil - Do our members want to continue dealing with issues? Begin a discussion. Need a Chair for an Issues Committee if so. Ask other clubs (SAGE) to see how they deal with issues. Paul wants to talk to various clubs about this.
- F. Member’s Survey – Paul - When to have a survey? Have members complete a survey in February to present in March. John Slater asks feedback on neighbourhood walks added. **Motion - To use Survey Monkey to ask similar questions as previous survey in February 2024. All in favour, carried.**
- F. Chamber of Commerce Membership & Board Meetings – Paul - **Motion to obtain a Supporter Chamber of Commerce membership for \$275 to hold meetings there. All in favour. Carried. Paul to follow up.**
- F. Vital Signs Launch Event – Phil - Community Foundation event. We should send representation there. Cost is \$27.96. October 30 11:30 am. **Motion to send 2 members. All in favour. Carried.**
- F. Nature Network News recommendation - Corlaine - **Motion GN forward the most recent issue of Nature Network News to members by email to give them an example of what is available.** Discussion. All in Favour, carried.

6. Major Reports
 - A. Finance Report - Angela - **Casino** \$5856.93 **GN Chequing** \$9,134.08
Servus GN Savings \$6,873.77
Servus GIC \$10,000.00
GIC \$5000.00
Adopted as is, all in favour. Carried.
 - B. MHIP Report - Hugh - Doing fine. Within the projected budget of 2023.

7. Other Business - Shaw Spotlight asking if Guest Speakers could be filmed for Shaw Spotlight. Need permission from all guest speakers. **Linda to inquire further.**
8. Next Meeting – Wed. Nov 1, 3:30 - 6:30 pm at Chamber of Commerce, 413 6th Avenue SE

9. Adjournment 6:14 pm