

Grasslands Naturalists Society Minutes
General Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

- 1. Social time and coffee at 6:30 pm**
- 2. Call to order – Phil Horch 7pm**
- 3. Approval of minutes from September 26/23 – Phil Horch approved as circulated, carried.**
- 4. Land Acknowledgment – Phil Horch**
- 5. Indigenous Action – Phil Horch - Display works of arts by 3 Indigenous artists at TREX downtown until November 4th. Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), in partnership with the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) and Miywasin Friendship Centre, we will be hosting a free Building Energy & Sustainability Summit on October 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Esplanade Arts & Heritage Centre. GN members may register for free and it includes lunch. Nov 13 - 17 Metis Week at MH College**
- 6. President's Report – Phil Horch - We are looking for feedback on the new meeting format. Considering letting Shaw / Rogers filming our program. Please offer feedback on that idea. Members Survey coming. Paul Thibault working on it for February 2024. Same questions as 2011 survey with some additional questions. Discussion how to deal with cross country ski and snowshoe equipment.**
- 7. MHIP report - Mhairi Donnelly - decision not to do Halloween this year. Hannah is planning to do a Folklore display including a campfire storytelling session. Massive bird seed order went in! Expect your phone call Thursday/Friday. Plentiful supply for those who need it. New display 'A Swift Current' until end of December. Planning Family day with Kiwanis and a winter outdoor day.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Treasurer's report - Angela Turner GN Chequing \$8721.89 GN Savings \$6873.77 GN 15 month GIC maturing in May 2024 for \$10,000.00 and another GN 1 year GIC maturing in May, 2024 for \$5,000.00 Casino account is \$5856.93 Motion to adopt Financial report all in favour, carried. Thank you to Bruce McLeod for your work on the casino.**
- 2. Other Announcements -** Now members of MH Chamber of Commerce. Partly to get a meeting room. Some other benefits include free legal and accounting advice. Attend Chamber meetings which include good networking opportunities. Committee chairs are reminded to get budgets in to Paul Thibault by Nov. 15. Call for nominations coming up in January. Need for a new President. Indoor Program events next month are planned: Dr. Richard Schneider 'Time Travelling to Alberta's Past and Future'. Christmas bird count for Sunday December 17 followed by potluck. January round table discussion about issues society has been dealing with and strategic planning. Do we continue dealing with issues and advocating for nature? Jordan Vorst Boreal Frog research in Manyberries. March AGM and Lorne Fitch Alberta naturalist. Let Linda know if you are interested in their new book and we can contact local bookstore to get it in.

GUEST SPEAKER 7:30pm

Shirley Boomer First Nations Metis Inuit Support Worker for Medicine Hat Public Schools

Conclusion and Guest speaker appreciation – Linda Fisher

Part 2 of Business Meeting

- 1. Exciting Sightings - Note: please identify yourself by name before speaking!** It's migration time. John saw an old slim cow moose in his yard! Martha MG saw a moose eating Russian

olive at the college pond last November. Also a porcupine tonight. Grant McLeod saw a kookaburra and Australian magpie. Northern saw owl. Flock of red crossbills at her water fountain. Linda saw 8-900 snow geese and swans. Reports of evening grosbeak which are not that common here. Brambling birds at Hillside Cemetery. Haven't been noted here for many years. Wednesday morning walks start now here at the Nature Centre. Call /email John to say what kind of walks you'd like, including days of the week and times. Hoping to contact Shirley for ideas for possibly monthly nature activities. City parks now have websites and interactive maps to show possible flooding predictions and snow clearing on trails. Meeting Monday November 6 to look at Nature centre ski equipment. Martha attended a leaders' meeting including the Mayors of MH and Redcliff, MLAs and MPs. She asked about local ecosystems on behalf of GN. Phil attended a business Town Hall with Chamber of Commerce and asked a couple questions about MH population growth (City has backed off on 110 000 number saying it's just an aspiration). John Slater talked about the Invasive species committee's work this year. City has invited residents to open house Wednesday, Nov. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m.

- 2. Participation of members in discussions - to be held at January's meeting.** Brief discussion about what we want to talk about in January.

**Next meeting November 28 /23 at 6:30 pm at Nature Centre
Adjourn 7 pm**