

Minutes
Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 4 PM
Chamber of Commerce Board Room

- 1. Call to order - Phil**
- 2. Roll Call Present:** Phil Horch, Paul Thibault, Martha Munz Gue, Linda Fisher, Ian Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Angela Turner, Angela Turner, Sheila McLeod, Martha Maudsley
absent Corlaine Gardner
- 3. Review and Adoption of Minutes** from November 1 2023.
- 4. Business Arising From the Minutes -**
- 5. Approval of the Bundle: all in favour, carried.**
 - A. Issues Report - Gerry & John** - Discussion. Should we join with SEAWA on the report/letter as issues are similar? Are they interested?
 - B. Getting To Know You Meeting - Phil (verbal)** organized by Martha MG. Good meeting and discussion on how we can work together with community representatives. Possibility of field trips and camps (on Church Camp Road in Elkwater) with Miywasin. Need to join them and helping them in their activities rather than inviting them to join board meeting.
 - C. Pollinator Committee - Cathy, Phil** Very thorough and professional proposal. Martha MG will work with her. We need to authorise a committee. Paul moves to accept a report on formation on the pollinator committee and we form a committee to support the effort to form the Friendly Pollinator City committee. Discussion. Need to coordinate our efforts with

other committees to make sure it is well supported. It may bring in new people because it's something they're passionate about. **All in favour, carried.**

D. Casino Slotting - Hugh, Phil slots usually open around the holidays but we said no to those dates.

6. New Business:

A. January Indoor Meeting Discussion format need for Strategic planning meeting. Need for a 'menu' for January meeting, a plan. Necessity to bring in younger people. Schedule meeting Saturday December 16 11:15 to 1:30pm.

B. Adopt-A-Pond & Walks Report - Martha Gue some success posting walks on city website bringing people in. Would like the Board to go out for a walk. Strathcona Park has been adopted now. Need for help with Cemetery especially hedge, even a couple times a year. Leinweber park needs someone. Caelan has started a Facebook page for Adopt a Pond and Path. Could have workshops for areas of adopters to help with identifying and reporting invasives. Would the board like to join a walk? Ask again in the new year. Would you like a meet and greet? Valuable once or twice a year. Note: we should be tracking our volunteer hours. Particularly important for the city. Will GN continue to support this initiative for 2024? Yes. Need to groom a successor for Martha MG. Think of ways to collaborate with SEAWA. Maybe have a party with both boards. This is a Strategic planning issue as there's other projects. Please join the walk Wednesday December 13 1:30 for a walk and discussion. **Motion for GN board to maintain our support in principle including 5 points in Martha Munz Gue's December 6 2023 report on pond and path initiative for 2024.**

Discussion on involving MHIP in programming. **All in favour, carried.**

C. Indoor Speaker Fees - Linda, Paul Discussion on reimbursement on speakers. Should we consider up to \$250? If someone wants more we need to make a new motion. Ask speakers what they charge. Linda will contact Cathy Linowski for further guidance. Cathy would also like to do a presentation to GN. For the future, GN shirts are the perfect gift. **Move that speaker maximum honorarium \$250 above which needs board approval. All in favour, carried.**

D. Crowsnest AGM Report - Paul Interesting meeting. AGM is the only business meeting they do. Other groups as well (Nature Alberta). Well organized. City councillors were there. We could invite them and college profs too. 4 committees: education and outreach, resources (coal exploration, water and air quality), weeds and wildflowers, wildlife. We appreciate that Paul has taken the time to join these groups and give us ideas.

E. Rhino Storage - Paul We need to put stuff in bins in case of mice. Anyone who has stuff that needs to go in there label it.

F. State of the City Address - Phil Annual event Jan. 23 12 noon at MH Lodge jointly with Kiwanis. Phil to attend at his own expense. They want to make a video of us, they will include Christmas Bird count.

G. GN Promotional Products - Phil, Corlaine decided to go ahead. Corlaine to get on this in terms of t-shirts and caps. She hopes to be ready for door prizes. Casino funds can be used for promotional purposes. But then they cannot be sold. Should every member be given a t-shirt? Be careful how it will be

distributed as casino funds then mean item can't be sold at all. Need for a budget for these products. Ads are about \$450/month in MH News.

H. Ian Wallis observance - Phil mention of his passing to be put in Chronicle. He passed away Nov. 17. Please give Phil any information you have.

I. Irrigation Issues - Paul, Phil Area that goes from Red Deer River to Suffield to Empress up to Buffalo. Looks like a reservoir will flood native grassland. The claim is the grassland will not be converted to agriculture. New irrigation, there's no irrigation there now. All in report Paul sent. Is GN interested in getting involved in this as an observer? We should continue monitoring this situation and find out more. We recognize this is in our area of interest. Jerry and Cheryl Bradley think the letter we sent 2 years ago to Cabinet Ministers regarding irrigation should be sent again with some editing. **Motion that this letter regarding should be resent with copy to local representatives. All in favour.**

7. Treasurer's Report – Angela GN chequing \$8187.88, GN savings \$6891.02, \$10000 GIC and \$5000 GIC. Casino chequing \$24323.54 **Motion to adopt financial report, all in favour.**

8. MHIP Operations Report – Hugh look to increase money for Interpretive program we're running a \$5000 deficit. Negotiated a new contract with Alicia (4% increase), Jane (\$1/ hour).

9. Other Business -no

10. Adjournment - 6 pm

Next Meeting 11:15 am January 5 2024

Chamber of Commerce Board Room