

Minutes

Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 4 pm
Chamber of Commerce Board Room

1. **Call to order – Phil 4pm**
2. **Roll Call – Martha Maudsley Present:** Phil Horch, Paul Thibault, Martha Munz Gue, Linda Fisher, Sheila McLeod, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Maudsley **Absent:** Corlaine Gardner, Ian Turner, Angela Turner
3. **Review and Adoption of Minutes from Friday, January 5, 2024 approved as amended. All in favour, carried.**
4. **Business Arising From The Minutes:** Sheila is willing to let her name stand as President but needs a Vice president.
5. **Approval of the Bundle: Bundle approved.**
 - A. **Letter from Minister of Environment – Phil, Paul-** discussion. Appreciate we now have a contact phone number.
 - B. **Justin Wright Meeting Report – Phil-** felt the meeting was educational.
 - C. **Indoor Program Report – Linda-** should we take advantage of local people or look to others further afield? Should presentations also be local or can a member talk about trips abroad? Linda will put a blurb in Chronicle to see if there's interest in a Member's Night for the May 28, 2024 general meeting.
 - D. **Promotional Swag Report – Corlaine -** looking to get a crest made to use on items.
 - E. **SEAWA Drought Workshop – Phil, Paul -** Phil has asked Paul to attend as our rep. Need to develop a policy for who can be paid to attend these types of things and how? Such as if the board asks you to go, you get paid. Or if you're giving a presentation. Should we schedule a GN meeting forum on this topic after we attend this meeting? Maybe a joint forum with SEAWA
 - F. **Chamber New Member Event Report – Phil-** young crowd. Will be a training session on how to promote yourself on social media. No date yet, sometime in April. Can non GN members see zoom/attend meetings/field trips? Need to discuss this further.
6. **New Business**
 - A. **Pizza Parley feedback & follow-up – Sheila-** well attended. Slideshow and pizza helped. Got lots of information and material for our survey. Ask in the survey 'how often should we have business meetings?' Should the president ask every meeting if there are any questions regarding business? Should we make the meetings more social? Well done Sheila!
 - B. **GN AGM Agenda – Phil -** do we need to change last year's agenda? Start a business meeting at 6pm. Speaker at 7:15pm. Linda gathering details from both the Medicine Hat College and the Medicine Hat Public Library re room rentals. Send invitations to local municipal councillors, politicians.
 - C. **Elections and Lifetime Members – Phil -** Sheila will let her name stand as President, we believe Angela will stand. Martha Maudsley will stand. Hugh will let us know what he's open to do. Martha Munz Gue would like to host at her home, Past Presidents a few times a year.

- D. MHIP Report & Ski Rentals – Hugh-** ski rentals have ended. Still have snowshoes but aren't renting them. Total revenue for the year was 110% and expenses were 95% so net income of about \$6,500. Alica needs at least 6 weeks ahead of time to look at programs to run. Kiwanis day parking in order Family Day. Our insurance was left as is because it would involve submitting new information to remove ski rentals/snowshoes.
- E. Veiner Center Walk – Phil-** Wednesday May 29th, 1 hour walk at Strathcona Island Park. Need 2-3 people to lead.
- F. Adopt-A-Pond Launch – Martha Gue** - location Seven Persons creek. Who should we invite? March 22, 2024 World Water Day. So far at least 50 adopters. Put something in Chronicle to let people know? Do a press release in advance to get attention?
- G. Youth Membership Idea – Martha Gue-** extend invitation to school Green clubs either at Nature Centre with bussing or a central location. We could have a one dollar membership for students. Linda Fisher to help with this. **Motion to form youth membership recruitment “Young Naturalists” committee to form connections with school groups. All in favour, carried.**
- H. Creekside Stewardship Group – Martha Gue-** Cathy Linowski to do presentations. Can be educational, weed pulls, assessments. Using a city microgrant. Should be put in the Chronicle, the deadline is March 9th.
- I. Paul von Huene Project – Martha Gue-** planning a day at his ranch. Wednesday, May 22, 2024 Endangered Species day. Trying to network with other groups. Are there people within GN who would like to spend the day with children in groups of 4-5? Should we ask for volunteers at next meetings? Paul can give a 5-6 minute talk.
- 7. Treasurer’s Report – Angela**
- 8. Other Business** - Letter from Marilou Montemayor asking for a letter of support. Phil is happy to write the letter. **Motion Phil to write this letter of support in principle for her project. All in favour, carried.** Phil to ask for nominations in his President’s report. Committee Reports due March 1 /24, send to Paul.
- 9. Adjournment – Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 6, 2024 – Chamber Board Room**