

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING - December 2, 2014

Present: Dave McKenzie, John Slater, Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, Monica Bartha and Hugh Armstrong
(host) **Guests:** Sean Allen

Call to Order 6:41p.m. - Dave

1. Review & Adoption of GN Board minutes from November 4, 2014. Motion carried forward.
2. Additions to Agenda.
3. Action Items:
 - a. City Contract List of Equipment update – Eileen: December 8th Randy Tavis, City Parks Dept) will meet with Corlaine Gardner at the Nature Centre to discuss the list.
 - b. Motion from General Meeting: “Bird Tales” Audubon program: update – Hugh: Currently underway. Has been order on Amazon.ca will arrive January 6th. A DVD, step by step instructions on how to use it and an activity card that can be printed off.
 - c. MH Community Foundation: online GN profile – Hugh for Paul: Paul will get a hold of Jane at CF and will take care of everything.
4. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer’s report – Eileen: Grassland’s Naturalists Nov 30, 2014 shows current earnings of \$1500. Current assets \$10,493.38 MHIP Current assets \$20,1777.77
 - b. Membership report – Eileen: 94 memberships with 137 members.
 - c. Correspondence – Eileen: received a cheque from Co-op and we received \$88.00 for all the receipts.
 - d. Operations Committee report – Gary: next meeting in early January.
 - e. Issues Committee report – John: Todd Sharpe, General Manager of City Parks and Recreation, letter November 5th to GN enquiry regarding various questions submitted to UERAB. Next Issues Committee meeting is December 9th 9:30a.m. at Martha’s house.
 - f. Indoor Program Committee report – Dave: Elk Management hunt speaker for January and Swift Fox speaker for February. Pending correspondence with the Ferruginous Hawk speakers and interested for presenting in April. Invertebrate research from One Four pending for either March or May.
 - g. Fund Raising Committee report – Hugh: Applying to the Real Estate Property charitable program for small grant. Ballie fund will give regular grants for up to \$1000 possibly for the Bird Trail Project.
 - h. Budget Committee & Governance Committee report – Eileen for Paul: December 29th next meeting, location is to be determined.
5. Other Business:
 - a. Medicine Hat college proposal for YE Group – John: Presented Explorer Days booklet and business cards the ETOL program developed for the YE Group. A waiver form was created by the student club YE Group for all participants to sign.
 - b. GN YNE Committee disband & release Budget: There is a community advisory group now. Motion carried forward.
 - c. Pamphlet for Butterflies (Dave) and Wildflowers (Martha): Dave presented his idea for a local pamphlet (Checklist) to include 16 families of butterflies. Dave will look further for pamphlet layouts. Is funding possible from local and outside of the area companies.
 - d. Staff Benefits: meet with staff – Anne & John: John spoke with Corlaine about the benefits and currently is waiting for decision to be made.
 - e. Community Foundation Endowment Plan: should meet with CF: John suggests we continue to make a commitment to speak to Mike.

- f. Birding Trail Project – Hugh & John: 3 meetings have been held so far. Before printing the booklet it will be available on the GN website for public to review and provide feedback. The booklet will be for the southeastern portion of Alberta. Project is still moving forward.
 - g. Buckthorn Removal project – Sean: This project will be very similar to how the Baby Breath project was run. Buckthorn is a prohibited noxious in AB. Found in police point. Chokecherry is currently being choked out by Buckthorn. One non-lethal method is to cut down the shrub to about 6 inches and place bags on it so it prevents the spread of the buckthorn. Will eventually die out. Sean's idea for cost would be ~\$8000 that's including \$2000 to pay a summer student wage based on a 10-12 hour work day, so that student will lead the project and Sean will operate the project. He mentioned Millennium is highly interested in taking part of this project but may not be able to supply the funding. Sean spoke with Todd Sharpe, General Manager City Parks Dept. He encourages Sean to keep working with getting the public involved with these types of projects and mentioned that the City may be able to supply funding but this is not for sure. Parks & Recreation has given a letter of approval and Corlaine has approved this. Hugh will send copy of letter of approval to the Board and will vote by email. Pending that there is a letter we will carry this motion forward.
 - h. Leadership workshop for developing creative crafts- John: Can a leadership workshop be developed and held at the interpretive center? This workshop will teach future leaders how to create crafts with pieces of nature and recycled items. Can an exhibit be developed to promote creativity with nature and recycled items?
 - i. GN Potluck Sunday December 21, 2014 Police Point Park @ 5:30pm.
6. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday January 6, 2014 – John's house @ 6:30p.m.
7. Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.