

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING October 7, 2014

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Monica Bartha, Eileen Cowtan, John Slater, Gary Martin, Dave McKenzie (host), Hugh Armstrong, Martha Munz Gue.

1. Call to Order – Anne @ 6:33p.m.
2. Review & Adoption of GN Board minutes from Sept 9, 2014. Minutes accepted.
3. Action Items:
 - a. City Contract List of Equipment Update:
 - i. Was brought up in the Operations Committee meeting on Monday 6 Oct 2014. Corlaine Gardner and Randy Taves will update the list.
 - b. Honorary Life-Time Membership presented to Dennis Baresco.
 - i. Meeting was held on Friday October 3, 2014 and certificate was presented to Dennis Baresco. Speech by Phil Horch will appear in the Chronicle and read at the next General Meeting October 28, 2014. John has spoke with City of Medicine Hat and BJ signs to have the Park Bench plaque updated.
4. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer's report.
 - i. Eileen presented the GN and IP financial reports. On the GN report, not much has changed. On the IP Report, largest income generator are the toys, bird feeders and seed.
 - ii. Open sign needed at the Nature Centre, as well as more Lone Pine field guides and other authors such as John Acorn.
 - b. Membership report.
 - i. Eileen provided updated copy of the membership list. Four new memberships (93 total).
 - c. Indoor Program Committee report – Dave.
 - i. Dave still working on to find a speaker.
 - d. Operations Committee report – Anne for Bob Townsend.
 - i. Bob has retired and Gary will be chair of the Operations Committee.
 - ii. IP Management Committee Draft Budget 2015 discussed. Request help for grants.
 - e. Issues Committee report - John.
 - i. Judicial review of Sage Grouse Protection Order is still ongoing in it's earliest stages.
 - ii. Alberta 2014 count of Sage grouse: date from Joel Nicholson; 14 males displaying at 4 leks. Population still the same as 2013. Two of Montana birds have raised successful broods. We are still awaiting numbers from Saskatchewan.
 - iii. Shoreline Cleanup – Had 5 members and 3 non-members cleaned Strathcona, Lions Park, and all the way up to the MH Public library. Great day!
 - iv. Invasive Plants – we will wait till next spring to start up another project. Sean Allen and Cathy Linowski surveyed the Ranchlands area; some tumbling baby's breath and few new plants.
 - v. Plastic bags and bottles – Local Hatter, Uwe Krickhahn would like to ban all plastic bags in Medicine Hat by July 2016.
 - f. Fund Raising Committee Report
 - vi. Next Meeting will be in November.
 - g. Communication Committee report - Eileen.
 - vii. A summary to be created of the program, which was presented, should be added to the following month's Chronicle. Secretary will be responsible to create a summary about the program.
 - h. Birding Trail Project ad hoc Committee report – John for Phil Horch.
 - viii. Meetings held Sept 29 and Oct 2 to discuss development of maps for brochure.
 - ix. Next meeting will be held November 7, 2014.
5. Other Business:
 - a. Update on Staff benefits – Oassis Plan Quote - John.
 - i. 5 different levels and costs. Next step is to speak to the IP staff and then approach the City of Medicine Hat for funding. Suggested start time would be January 2015.
 - b. MH College Proposal: GN Young Naturalist Explorers Club.
 - i. Agree to have a GN standing committee for Young Naturalists Club. Members are John, Martha, Monica, Gary and Tina Regher. Motion moved forward.
 - ii. Motion GN has \$500 as seed money for the Young Naturalists Club. Motion carried.
 - c. Community Foundation Endowment Plan.
 - i. John recommends we set up another meeting.

- d. Director-at-Large replacement: still looking for GN member to join the Board.
 - e. Pamphlet of Wildflowers (Martha) and Butterflies (Dave).
 - i. Dave's idea to create a Butterfly checklist for Medicine Hat in the works.
 - ii. Martha will contact Nature Alberta about Wildflower Pamphlet.
 - f. 'Use of the River' South Saskatchewan River meeting Sept 10th report – Monica (and Dave).
 - i. Resource material (archives) from past to present regarding the SS River discussed.
 - g. Budget Committee next meeting Oct 15th at Eileen's home.
 - h. Next General Meeting Oct 28, 2014 Police Point Park 7pm.
 - i. Speaker to be finalized.
 - i. Ranchlands Phase 2F&G Environmental Reserve on 11 Ave NE: no further discussion.
6. Next Board Meeting: November 4, 2014. Monica's 519E Allowance Ave SE at 6:30p.m. Phone 403-580-9806. Meeting adjourned at 9:08p.m.