

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting- September 6, 2016
Host- Anne Bernhardt

Present: Hugh Armstrong (chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Gary Martin, Anne Bernhardt, John Slater (guest).

Absent: Dave McKenzie

1. Call to order: 6:33 pm
2. Review of GN Board Minutes from June 7, 2016 with two points brought up:
 - a. Eileen confirmed that \$200. was sent to the City to dedicate a tree in Lions Park in the name of GN.
 - b. General agreement by the Board that the City did a good job on the River Recreation picnic area in Police Point Park with minimal interference and no trees disturbed.
Minutes were then Adopted. Motion CARRIED.
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. A joint presentation between MHIP and the Esplanade on the topic of Birding: Watching, Carving, and Painting. Presentation starts October 3 in the Honor Currie Room. GN has been asked to have a display table set up to exhibit GN cards, signs etc. The display table will not need anyone to be present.
 - b. **Action Plan for Multiple Species at Risk in Southwestern Saskatchewan:** Hugh said that GN's response to the Action Plan was submitted and we have received a reply.
 - c. **Lifetime Membership:** Hugh has written a Call for Nomination and it will be advertised in the September Chronicle.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Review of Policies and Procedures for Adoption:**
 - P&P: Awards**
Minor changes made to the draft.
3.3 - Remove the opening phrase "Within 90 days of the award".
Call for Nomination to be placed in the Chronicle .Change title to read "Life -Time Membership and/or Honorary Award".
 - P&P: Nominations and Election of Executive Officers**
The statement that any written nomination "shall indicate that the nominee has been notified and accepts the nomination" was added.
 - P&P: Committees and External Organizations: Mandate, Formation and Member Selection**
This has been revised to reflect that the Budget year has been changed to the calendar year.
Committees must therefore submit their budgets by November 15.
 - P&P: Indoor Program Committee; Objectives and Operations**
The proposed draft indicates that the Communications Committee will now take the responsibility of advertising GN presentations in public media outlets.
Procedures, Clause 2: Replace "communications vehicles" by "Society Announcements" which is the Term used and defined in the bylaws.
 - P&P: MHIP Operations Committee; Objectives and Operations**
"Nature programming" has been changed to "heritage programming".

Motion: that all changes to the above P&Ps be accepted. CARRIED.
 - b. **Shoreline Cleanup:** This cleanup will be held Saturday, September 24 to help clean Strathcona Island Park (and into Lions Park). Helpers will meet at the Heritage Building at 9:00 am.
Milt will put this into the Chronicle and Eileen will do a general mail - out. John will contact Todd Sharp.
Once Angela has the details, she will request the information be put on the City Website, on CHAT TV (Thursdays), etc. Anne suggested Sobeys may pay for the advertising.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer`s Report:** Eileen reported a balance for August 31 of \$29,558.10.

After some discussion, it appears that the Webcam project will have its own account. It was noted that the Casino Funds must be spent within a two-year period, or an extension has to be requested.

- b. **Membership Report:** Eileen reported there are 81 members at present, with 2 new memberships; Ian and Wendy, and Maureen and George.
- c. **Correspondence:** Eileen noted there is a receipt from the City for the \$200. tree donation, as well as assorted magazines. It was suggested that the magazines might be left at the Nature Centre for visitors to read.
Motion: that the three reports above be accepted as read. CARRIED
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** John noted the next Operations Committee meeting would be Monday, October 17. He said they had a very successful summer with 3 Ranchlands N.E. walks, a berm walk, and others. Two Police Point Park Wild Flower Walks were held on May 15 and August 28.
 - Display on Rats runs from July 5 to September 18.
 - Story Walk in conjunction with MH Public Library lasts until October 2.
 - Fall Festival in conjunction with Alberta Culture Days happens October 2 from 11:00 am to 4 pm
 - A Beaver Walk will be held at 5:45 pm on October 15.John also reminded everyone they could order bird feed for Fall through the Nature Centre.
- e. **Issues Committee:** John reported the Committee has been very busy since June. Weeds were flagged in Briar Run and a submission to the City was sent regarding Briar Run. The City will hold a second open house regarding this area in October.
 - Digging and picking for noxious weeds was carried out in Police Point Park, S.E. Hill, and N.E. Crescent Heights. Some trees in Police Point Park were wrapped with wire for beaver protection.
 - The Wildflower Pamphlet group held two meetings. Cathy Linowski prepped a list of wildflowers and Dwayne Myers and Rob Gardner are collecting pictures.
 - All field work is done on the Riparian Health assessment and Marty is preparing a final report.
 - The City's Lands and Business Support Department gave a grant to GN to hire Brenda Powder, a MH College student, to coordinate removal of Noxious Weeds in Ranchlands.
 - 31,000 plants were dug and picked in Ranchlands from June to the end of August with 131 hours spent.
 - 3,100 Leafy Spurge plants were pulled in 8 different areas of Ranchlands.
 - John noted that Brenda is finished with the Ranchlands project now but will write a report of the work.**Report on Archeological Sites in the Ranchlands area:** Motion: If funds are available, GN will grant up to \$1,600 to the Archeological Club for a joint proposal to the City regarding use of Ranchlands Phase 2F&G for Interpretive programs. The study to be done before the end of the calendar year. CARRIED.
- f. **Indoor Program Report:** Dave absent. The September speaker will be presenting on Species at Risk.
- g. **Fundraising:** Environment Canada gave their permission for the Heron Webcam project to proceed.
 - Hugh and Corlaine have been busy over the summer meeting with an architect and others, working out the cost of an addition/upgrade to PPP Nature Centre. GN has applied to the CFEP, Community Facility Enhancement Program, for a large grant of \$262,000.00 to supplement the funding for this upgrade.
- h. **Field Trips:** Gary noted that Explore our Neighbourhood walks were popular. The Mitchell Ranch was a very successful field trip for members. Ian suggested a cross-country skiing or snowshoeing outing to Elkwater.
- i. **Communications:** Angela said 1000 rack cards were printed and several were distributed to the Esplanade, Tourist Office, Library, Nature Centre and other locations.
 - A display table for GN was set up at the Farmer's Market in May and June. Ian and Angela volunteered to sit at September Market display table.
 - Angela noted the Community Foundation presented thorough information about GN on their website.
 - She said the budget is sufficient at present. The committee will need to present a new budget for November 15.
- j. **Birding Trails:** Hugh noted Birding Trails is almost ready to be put on the website. Paul will be responsible for that. Funds are needed to produce pamphlets showing trail information. The group will meet Thursday September 8th and establish a timeline.
- k. **Bird Tales:** On September 27, the Bird Tales program will start at Meadow Ridge Seniors Village.
 - The committee is looking to provide window bird feeders to shut-ins living in the Community.

6. Other Business:
 - a. **Webcam set up at Police Point Park:**
 - Shockware is checking details of set up.
 - Scott Hoyland is looking into tools for quality of transmission.
 - The City has given permission to use electricity at the Heron site.
 - Paul is checking the cost of having more bandwidth and David Gue has downloaded essential information to computer.GN will have a better awareness of prices of set up by this Fall.
 - b. **Urban Environment and Recreation Advisory:** UERAB is looking for two members. They want to know about GN and what projects we are involved in.
 - John and Hugh will meet with them on Wednesday, September 21. Todd Sharp is the contact person for this group.
 - c. **Myrna Pearman:** of Ellis Bird Farm will be speaking September 12 at 7:00 pm at MH Public Library.
 - Anne asked if the Interpretive Program could set up a display and bring birdseed - for display not sale.Angela will talk to Marty or Val at the Nature Centre about a tablecloth, PPP Banner and Bird Tales Banner (from Dee).

Eileen has volunteered to attend dinner with Myrna, as the GN member, along with the Library representatives at the Medicine Hat Golf Club. On Tuesday morning, Paul, Rob and/or Phil have offered to act as guides to tour Myrna at Police Point Park.
7. Next Board Meeting October 4, 2016 at Ian and Angela's home.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm. Refreshments served.