

Society of Grasslands Naturalists: Board Meeting September 9, 2014-10-10

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Eileen Cowtan, John Slater, Gary Martin, Dave McKenzie, Monica Bartha, Hugh Armstrong.

Hosted by: Anne Bernhardt at the Medicine Hat Public Library and provided the food and beverages.

Call to order at 6:38 pm.

Minutes: The June 3, 2014 Board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes with corrections.

Action Items:

- a. Update on GN/IP Insurance Policy: It was suggested that the City equipment listed in contract Schedule "B" be reviewed and a reduced list be submitted to Randy Taves of the Parks Department.
- b. Honourary membership – arranging presentation to Dennis Baresco: John will send Dennis an email asking for suitable date and location for presentation. Eileen will create certificate. Phil Horch will complete a write up.

Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report:
 - Eileen presented the GN Balance Sheet and the GN Income Statement.
 - Eileen presented the MHIP Balance Sheet.
 - Signing authority needed to meet with Servus on September 10, 2014.
- b. Membership Report:
 - Eileen provided everyone with a copy of the new membership list. (89 total).
- c. Issues Committee Report:
 - No update from Ecojustice regarding Judicial review for Sage Grouse Protection Order.
 - Baby's Breath Removal Project has a write up in the Medicine Hat College Real magazine.
 - Flood Mitigation: City has had public meetings, but no details regarding riparian health. An article was in the Medicine Hat News paper regarding the berms.
 - SEAWA Living By Water Program: field trip occurred on July 9th, 2014. Monica and Tina had attended.
 - Young Naturalist Club meeting with Petra occurred as well as further meetings have occurred recently. Remaining info will be discussed in Other Business.
 - Dave's update on reducing the use of plastic bags and plastic water bottles: City of Medicine Hat will take guidance from the Provincial Government on this topic. Further discussion will occur at the next upcoming Issues Committee meeting.
 - An article about Milt Spitzer and the Bluebird boxers was in the Prairie Post.
 - Western Stock Growers meeting at MH Lodge had guest speaker Mr. Bruce Vincent from Libby, MT; owner of a wood lot. He spoke about the balanced understanding of the sage grouse and its habitat.
- d. Indoor-Program Committee Report. Select Chair:
 - Dave confirmed Chris Jass curator of Paleontology will be presenting on September 23, 2014.
 - Board of Directors request to have Dave McKenzie take over as Chair.
- e. Fund Raising Committee Report:

- All co-op receipts are to be handed into Anne by September 15th; either dropped off in her mailbox or at the Medicine Hat Public Library.
- We now have a Casino License number. We should be able to hold our first Casino by March 2016.
- Outdoor Education Project was cancelled because of the AB Gaming and Liquor new guidelines.
- The search continues for grants. In order to receive funding we need to develop projects. EcoTrust new grants require collaborate with two other not-for-profit organizations.
- Next meeting of Fundraising committee will be after the end of October.

f. Budget Committee Report:

- Previous meeting in June, the proposed budget was accepted.

f. Communications Committee:

- Correspondence - Calgary Newsletters received; they have good ideas for educational programs.
- Add a PDF of the Bird Checklist to the website for general public access.

Other Business:

a. Director-at-Large: Search for replacement.

- Letter was received from Mr. Bill Knibbs regarding his resignation. We will miss him on the Board.

b. Update on Staff benefits:

- Currently waiting on response from City of Medicine Hat if additional funding is available in the current contract.

c. Introductory GN/NA/YNC memberships:

- Martha has brought the idea to begin a Young Naturalists Club for families to all participate within the field trips.
- Hoping this will bring in younger naturalists to join and learn about the outdoors.
- Monica will be coordinating with Tina who will be assisting; Martha and John are the mentors. This club will be called, "Young Explorers".
- A fee would be charged; fee would include electronic versions of our Chronicle and NA NatureWild magazine.
- Plan to have an activity set up during Fall Festival on September 21st at Police Point Park. Arrange a meeting to come up with an activity.
- **Motion carried forward** to go ahead with Young Explorers.

d. Next General Meeting September 23rd, 2014 at the Nature Centre.

Adjournment at 8:30 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held October 7th, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Dave McKenzie, 1375 McKenzie Cr NW, 403.527.1701.