

**City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**  
**City Council Conference Room 2A**

1. **Call to Order:** 6:03 PM by Sarah McConnell
2. **Roll Call:** The following members were present: Sarah McConnell, Beverly Leonard, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Victoria Ross, and Alderperson JaNelle Powers. Guests: Betty Volquardsen. Members absent, but excused, were: Kelley Happ.
3. **Comments from the Public:** None
4. **Approval of Avian Committee Minutes from April 13, 2025:** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rodriguez, and seconded by Gallo. The motion was passed.
5. **2025 Financial Review and Budget Update:** Members had no comments or questions regarding the financials.
6. **Update regarding the hotel birding backpacks:** Rodriguez reported that there are four (4) confirmed hotels; she attended the Visit Lake Geneva Monthly meeting and presented the backpack, its purpose and the contents; and once the tags & rack cards are received, distribution to the hotels will begin.
7. **Discussion regarding climate change topics:**
  - a. Dark Skies Ordinance: Ross presented at the City Council Committee of the Whole regarding getting a Dark Skies Ordinance in place for the City of Lake Geneva.
  - b. EV Chargers: this is currently on hold, but Ross will research what needs to be done to move the process forward. McConnell & Rodriguez will reach out to their contacts at Yerkes Observatory to see how Yerkes was able to get the chargers installed there.
8. **Updates regarding the Purple Martin Houses:** There are a total of 76 nests with eggs evenly distributed between the East and West end houses. There have no additional dead Purple Martins since the 3 reported last month. These were the first deaths due to territorial fighting. The use of construction netting in nest building is contributing to Sparrow deaths.
9. **Discussion/Action regarding Swift Night Out:** The plan is to continue with the format from last year which includes: Vendor Displays; Taco Truck; Audubon "Raptors & Friends Program; and Swift viewing as the finale. In addition, tables will be set-up so kids can decorate bird feeders & houses prior to the event. Interest in seeing if Community Bank will provide the Ice Cream Truck again was also discussed.
10. **Next Meeting Date & Time:** The next Avian Committee Meeting will be on July 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the City Council Conference Room 2A.
11. **Future Agenda Items:**
  - a. Birding Backpacks for Area Hotels
  - b. Climate Change Topic Updates
  - c. Swift Night Out Plan Updates
12. **Adjournment:** McConnell adjourned the meeting at 6:53 PM

Respectfully submitted 06/06/2025  
Victoria Ross