

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 6 P.M.

City Lunch Room

1. Call to order: 6:10 by Jill Rodriguez

2. Roll Call. The following members were present: Carol Zimmermann, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ. Alderperson Cindy Flower and Beverly Leonard were excused.

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from March 10, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes by Zimmermann, second by McConnell. The motion was passed.

4. Comments From the Public:

There were no members of the public present.

5. Financial/Budget Reports:

No updated reports; no comments or discussion.

6. Learn to Soar Update, including Story Book Trail

Zimmermann referred to the Project Schedule for April and discussed the plans to help fifth grade students at St. Francis School with their Story Book Trail project. Zimmermann and Happ will visit the classroom on April 20 to introduce this capstone project to the class and help them understand how they will be working together to write a story that can be understood by first and second graders, based on the information they have learned about bird migration.

On Friday, April 29, the students will visit Four Seasons Nature Center to walk the site, and meet with experts from Audubon, Geneva Lake Conservancy and the City of Lake Geneva Arborist. In May, students will be divided into three groups to work on their story, illustrations and activities. The project will be created and reviewed, completed and presented.

Thursday, May 26 is the presentation event, scheduled from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at Four Seasons Nature Center in which the fifth graders present their finished project to the community in honor of World Migratory Bird Day.

7. Update on Grants:

Rodriguez submitted the "Go Outside" application for a grant of \$500 from the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Happ will continue to work on the grant from S. C. Johnson Company, with help as needed from the committee.

8. Review Local Ordinances and Issues:

The committee agreed to hold discussion on this topic at another time.

9. Swift Night Out Update:

McConnell continues to work on details of SNO, including securing food trucks for the night of the event. She spoke to Fiddlesticks and JoJo's and both seemed interested. She recommended asking both to provide food for the evening, and the committee agreed. She also hopes to secure coffee and possibly ice cream food services.

Because of the issue last year with the swifts non-appearance, committee members suggested we each scout the area the week before to see if there are other locations the birds are roosting. It was suggested that we have locals report on any other locations they find and we could put this information on our Facebook page.

10. Purple Martin Update: and Open House event July 9

Gallo reported seeing Purple Martin scouts checking out the boxes. She also reported that local enthusiasts Margaret and Roger Wolff and Susan Robbins will help with monitoring the boxes this summer.

The Avian Committee will host an “Open House” at the Geneva Public Library on Saturday, July 9 from 10 AM to noon, as part of the library’s annual Author Fest. This will be our opportunity to tell the public about our Martin houses along the lakefront. Gallo and McConnell think it will be an appropriate time to open several boxes to show nests and eggs. We also hope to get the names of other people interested in helping with Avian committee projects.

11. Calendar/Project Review and updates on partners:

The Learn to Soar project was discussed earlier, as was our participation in the Geneva Lake Library’s Author Fest. Rodriguez led a brief discussion of the upcoming Oak tree exhibit to be held at the Geneva Lake Museum.

13. Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, May 12 at 6 pm in Conference Room A

14. Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes
- 4) Comments from the Public
- 5) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports
- 6.) Learning to Soar Update, including Story Book Trail
- 7) Update on grants and potential grants
- 8) Swift Night Out update
- 9) Purple Martin update, including “Open House” event July 9
- 10) Brief 2022 Calendar/Project review and updates on partners (including the Tree Board, Park Commission, Geneva Lake Conservancy, Public Library, Lakeland Audubon and the Geneva Lake Museum)
- 11) Next Meeting Date and Time
- 12 Future Agenda Items

12. Adjourn:

Rodriguez moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The committee also wants to set a date to meet with Flower and thank her for all her help on the committee.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
4/30/2022