

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 6:00 P.M.

City Council Conference Room 2A

1. Call to Order: 6:00 PM by Sarah McConnell

2. Roll Call. The following members were present: Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Kelley Happ, Karen Gallo, Beverly Leonard and Alderperson JaNelle Powers. Victoria Ross was excused

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes

Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3 meeting, seconded by Gallo and passed.

4. Visitors and Comments from the Public:

Betty Volquardsen, our new member-to-be is waiting for official appointment by the Mayor and Council. Powers spoke to the Mayor and he said the number of committee members was 6. This was changed by previous Mayor Tom Hartz to 7 members several years ago. The mayor will look into this.

No other members of the public were present.

5. Update from City Council

Alderperson Powers relayed news from the city, including proposed kayak racks to be placed near the west end piers; boat slips to be designated for full-time residents only beginning in 2026, and the city's dredging project and plans for the lagoon. Also she reported that perching rods for our bird houses will be installed when Public Works find time. Brush drop-off will be expanded to include two Saturdays, one in September and one in October, and that the new drop off system has saved the city a great deal of money. Also, Powers said an offer went to a Park Director prospect – they expect to hear soon.

6. Birding Backpacks

Rodriguez reported that the birding backpacks are ready to be distributed and that four hotels have expressed interest. McConnell will approach Bella Vista Suites and Happ will talk to Comfort Suites, neither of which responded to letters offering the backpacks to their facility.

7. Discussion/Update on Climate change Topics

Rodriguez attended a talk at Yerkes by the new Deputy Director Dr. Amanda Bower, and suggested she might be a very good speaker for one of our future presentations.

8. Swift Night Out Plans and Updates

Plans are set for the September 4 program at the Geneva Lake Museum. McConnell said Community State Bank will again provide free ice cream, and there will be two food trucks.

9. Purple Martin Report

Leonard reported on current activities in the lakefront Martin houses – her team counted 48 hatchlings and 39 additional eggs still to hatch. Gallo reported 49 babies. She also reported seven dead birds – the first time we have had this, and after discussion with the Purple Martin Society, they decided it might be territorial fighting or survival of the fittest. The gourds have the most occupancy ever, as did the Wrigley house. Leonard has ordered six more guards for next year.

10. Future Agenda Items

- Update from City Council
- Swift Night Updates and Plans
- Hotel Birding Backpacks Update
- Purple Martin Update

- Climate Change Topics
- Budget Update and Plans for 2026
- Other
- Next meeting time and date

12. Next Meeting Date and Time

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday August 12 at 6 pm in Conference Room 2 A.**

13: Adjournment:

Rodriguez moved to adjourn, seconded by Gallo and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 8/4/2025

Kelley Happ