

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 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, Victoria Ross, and Alderperson JaNelle Powers. Karen Gallo and Beverly Leonard were excused

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes

Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8 meeting, seconded by Ross and passed.

4. Visitors and Comments from the Public:

David Winger was introduced as the new Lake Geneva Parks director. Winger is a native to the area, has a Master's degree in Sustainable Management. The Avian Committee will be under the Parks Department. He can be reached at parksdirector@city of lakegeneva.

No other members of the public were present.

5. Financial Review

Rodriguez reported that she reached out to comptroller Laura Pisarcik regarding the 2026 budget planning sessions and will follow up to get detailed information.

6. Update from City Council

Alderperson Powers relayed news from the city, including a recent vote to separate from the GLLEA, purchase our own boat and have more oversight and control over policing on Geneva Bay and Buttons Bay. She also reported that Tom Hartz of Simple Bakery and Café is interested in purchasing two city parcels near the Fairfield Inn for mixed use, including a new café and larger bakery. The current Simple will remain a restaurant.

7. Swift Night Out Plans and Updates

McConnell reported that plans are all set for the September 4 SNO event. This is the seventh year for this educational event, focused on Chimney Swifts and bird migration. Happ reported that flyers, rack cards and yard signs are ready to go to the printer.

8. Birding Backpacks

Rodriguez reported that the birding backpacks are being distributed; so far to VISIT, Bella Vista Suites and Comfort Suites.

9. Discussion/Update on Climate change Topics

It was reported that Lake Geneva does have a Dark Skies ordinance -it is important not only for birds.

10. Purple Martin Report

Martins are beginning their migration and will soon be gone. Another successful year.

11. Other

Rodriguez mentioned that a new mural will be installed behind the library by the butterfly garden. She also has applied for a tree at the Geneva Lake Museum for the holiday decorating contest.

Ross offered to resign to allow Volquardsen to take her position as the sixth member of the committee and stated that she will still be available to help. McConnell tabled the offer until further discussions.

12. Next Meeting Date and Time

The next Avian meeting will be held on **Tuesday September 9 at 6 pm in Conference Room 2 A.**

13. Future Agenda Items

- Update from City Council
- Membership
- Swift Night Recap
- Bird City Application
- Hotel Birding Backpacks Update
- Holiday Tree at Geneva Lake Museum
- Climate Change Topics
- Budget Update and Plans for 2026
- Other
- Next meeting time and date

14. Adjournment:

Rodriguez moved to adjourn, seconded by Ross and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 9/2/2025

Kelley Happ