

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2005 6 p.m.

Lake Geneva City Hall; Conference Room 2A

Members: President – Sarah McConnell, Secretary – Kelley Happ, Jill Rodriguez, Beverly Leonard, Karen Gallo, Victoria Ross and Alderperson JaNelle Powers

1. Call to Order: 6:14 p.m. by Sarah McConnell

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

Others present: Betty Volquardsen and David Winger

3. Approval of minutes from August 12, 2025

Motion by Ross, second by Gallo to approve the minutes. Voice vote, approved, motion carried.

4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda

Volquardsen spoke about a potential grant from Bird City/White Pelican Farms for no less than \$500 worth of native plants and encouraged the Avian City to pursue this opportunity. She also mentioned the Dark Skies Project and hoped the Avian Committee will propose this to city council.

5. Financial Review and 2026 Budget Update:

Leonard led a discussion about assuring enough in the budget to cover needed repairs, replacement items and power washing for the Purple Martin houses and supplies for Swift Night Out. It was suggested we add additional amount of \$500 to cover these items. Also suggested putting carry-over funds into a category of building partnerships. Rodriguez will get new numbers and hand in the budget request on Sept. 12. The Avian Committee is scheduled to meet for the request on Sept. 16.

6. Discussion Regarding Membership:

The Avian Committee has requested the Administration allow the committee to have a member-at-large.

7. Discussion/Update Regarding Swift Night Out

Agreed that this was the best SNO ever – probably the largest with at least 300 people estimated to have attended. Concern that the cold snap a few days before or the wildfires in Canada may have affected the number of swifts. Next year our usual first Thursday of September falls just before the Labor Day weekend. Discussion about moving the date from Sept. 3 to Sept. 10, but some concern that it will be late for migration. The committee will research what other events are happening that week throughout the city/county. We agreed to table the discussion until next month and will check with the Chimney Swift organization. Also, all agreed on requesting Schlitz Audubon to present their raptor program again next year.

8. Discussion/Update Regarding Bird City Application

McConnell had requested that Bird City consider smaller cities in a different category from large ones like Madison. Ross will update our application and have a first draft by the November meeting. Happ will provide photos of past events.

9. Discussion/Update Regarding Hotel Birding Backpacks

Several local hotels are now enjoying our birding backpacks. Agreed to schedule a photo shoot to publicize this project. Happ will arrange.

10. Discussion Regarding Holiday Tree at Geneva Lake Museum

Rodriguez has signed up the Avian Committee to participate. We will use our cardinal decorations from last year and will meet to help put it together on the designated day in November.

11. Discussion Regarding Climate Change

Discussion about the City of Lake Geneva's Dark Sky ordinance to reduce light pollution and preserve the quality of the night sky.

Motion by Ross to strengthen the exterior lighting portion of the Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative (98-707) to include some compliance methods. Second by Happ. Voice vote, approved, motion carried.

Ross will create a mock-up of new standards that we can suggest to the city.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Gallo, second by Ross. Voice vote carried at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 10/6/2025

Kelley Happ

Secretary, Avian Committee