626 Geneva St, Lake Geneva, WI 53147- 262.248.3673- cityoflakegeneva.com

AVIAN COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA IS HOLDING MEETINGS VIRTUALLY AND IN-PERSON; YOU MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING BY THE FOLLOWING:

AGENDA

Committee Members: Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Carol Zimmermann, Kelley Happ, and Cindy Yager- Alderperson

1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Approval of the minutes from September 13, 2022
4) Comments from the public
5) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports and Updates/Budget Draft
6) Bird City Application
7) Updates on City Projects: South Street Trail and Weed Ordinance
8) Update on grants and potential grants
9) Swift Night Out update
10) Purple Martin update
11) Learn to Soar Update - Story Book Trail
12) 2022 Calendar/Project review and update
13) Next Meeting Date and Time
14) Future Agenda items
15) Adjourn

This is a meeting of the Avian Committee.
No official City Council action will be taken; however, a quorum of the Council may be present.

cc: Tourism Commissioners, Mayor, Administrator

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2022, 6:00 P.M.
City Meeting Room 2C

1. **Call to order**: 6:02 by Sarah McConnell
2. **Roll Call. The following members were present:** Sarah McConnell, Karen Gallo, Jill Rodriguez, Kelley Happ and Alderperson Cindy Yager. Carol Zimmermann and Beverly Leonard were excused.
3. **Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from June 14, 2022:**
A motion was made to approve minutes by Rodriguez, second by Yager and passed.
4. **Comments From the Public:**
Alderperson Mary Jo Fesenmaier attended the meeting to discuss the South Street Trail project. The city received a state DOT grant of approximately $800,000, but the project would cost the city more than $200,000 as well. Neighbors opposed the project because it would take a number of old growth trees in their front yards. The city has not yet decided to go forward.
5. **Financial/Budget Reports:**
No updates. Rodriguez suggested we get our budget information ready for the city budget meeting in September. She and Zimmermann usually work together on the budget. Yager confirmed that the budget meeting is September 22. McConnell added that we don't anticipate big changes in the budget next year. Zimmermann submitted printing costs for SNO to the city for repayment.

The committee reiterated that we do not act on the donation requests for the Purple Martin group, but we do join as members.
6. **Bird City Application:**
Committee members agreed to table this discussion until next month.
7. **Update on Grants:**
Rodriguez commented that she never received final information on where the money from the "Go Native" grant went. We should have received a $250 grant in the Avian Committee fund. Rodriguez also suggested we push back the Tourism Grant until next spring to request funds for birding kits at local hotels, similar to the lending backpacks we provide for the library. Fesenmaier suggested we stress the marketing angle, not just the items in the kit. Happ and Yager will continue to work on a possible grant from S. C. Johnson Company.
8. **Swift Night Out Update:**
McConnell reported that SNO plans are in place for the September 8 event, including the Schlitz Audubon presentation with raptors; food vendors Fiddlesticks, Jo Jo's and Andrea Pether's Sweet Cream Ice Cream. Happ will ask Inspired Coffee to provide hot drinks.
Happ reported that meteorologist Michael Schlessinger (CBS TV 58) is not available to MC this year, but we all agreed to ask George Zimmermann, as we think he would be excellent. Since the swifts did not come last year, we agreed that we will address this issue as "nature", and that we can't predict exactly when and where the birds will go. It was suggested that we each keep our eyes out for Swifts in late August and note where they might be gathering so we can make a "Plan B".

The committee also discussed distribution of flyers and signs. Rodriguez volunteered to do the school's "electronic backpacks" and will provide packets to the library. McConnell suggested purchasing scratchboards for children as they wait to see the birds (about $20 for 125 scratchboards at Amazon). She will look into this.

Rodriguez reminded us of a bird program at the library on August 11 and suggested we attend.

9. Purple Martin Update

McConnell, Leonard and Gallo reported great success with at least 115 new babies this year, and that houses that were empty last year were full this year. Despite the record number of Martin babies**,** Gallo was upset that the Martins on the west end near the boat piers disappeared right after they fledged. Rodriguez suggested they moved further down along the lakepath. Maybe we need bigger perches. It was predicted that the Martins will begin their migration by late August, but that we should leave the houses open a little longer to aid their journey.

McConnell mentioned that the Prairie Village Retirement home in Whitewater would like mentoring for their Purple Martin house. McConnell and Gallo will contact them for details.

10. Learn to Soar Update:

Nothing at this time

11. Calendar/Project Review and updates on partners:

Mary Jo Fesenmaier and Cindy Yager updated the committee on the new Weed Ordinance program the city is considering. This has to do with vegetation in front yards that serve as natural habitat and food source in the early spring.

12. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, September 13 at **6:00 pm in Conference Room A**

13. Future Agenda Items:

1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Approval of the Minutes from August 9
4) Comments from the Public
5) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports and Updates/ Budget Draft
6) Bird City Application
7) Updates on City projects: South Street Trail and Weed Ordinance
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14. Adjourn:

Happ moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 pm. The motion was seconded by Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
9/6/2022

Account Number	Account Title	2022-22 Period Actual	2022-22 Current year Actual	Current year Budget	Variance Current year	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND						
MISCELLANEOUS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
11-70-00-47300	AVIAN DONATIONS	.00	250.00	100.00	150.00-	250.00
Total MISCELLANEOUS:		.00	250.00	100.00	150.00-	250.00
MISCELLANEOUS						
11-70-00-57800	AVIAN COMMITTEE EXPENSES	531.00	1,111.32	3,025.00	1,913.68	36.74
Total MISCELLANEOUS:		531.00	1,111.32	3,025.00	1,913.68	36.74
Net Total GENERAL FUND:		531.00-	861.32-	2,925.00-	2,063.68-	29.45
Net Grand Totals:		531.00-	861.32-	2,925.00-	2,063.68-	29.45