

**City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers**

1. Call to order: 6:00 PM by Alderperson Flower

2. Roll Call. The following members were present: Cindy Flower - Alderperson, Carol Zimmermann, Jill Rodriguez, Sarah McConnell, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ. Beverly Leonard was excused. There were no members of the public present.

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from August 2021

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

4. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

5. Budget Update:

Flower thanked committee members who attended the budget meeting and for the excellent presentation. She said it was very well received and will update us next month on our budget request.

6. Bird City Application:

The Bird City application is in the process of being updated for 2022 submission. Members had been assigned sections to rewrite, and discussion ensued about edits that were made. Gallo and Happ volunteered to proofread the application. Zimmermann suggested the need to make plans for World Migratory Bird Day and to help Flower with wording for a City Council resolution to complete the application. We will discuss further in November. Flower and Zimmermann will contact Dave Nord about sending in the application fee.

7. Swift Night Out:

Discussion about the Swift Night Out event last month – Schlitz Audubon Nature Center gave an excellent talk with live raptors; food truck worked well, great crowd (estimates of 250 people). It would have been nice to have more food options, but some other food contacts were not willing to commit because of staff shortages. A larger venue would be nice to accommodate more people, but the Museum is wonderful to work with. Need to think plans for next year - McConnell wants to know of possible speakers.

8. Brownie Troup Roundup:

Members of the Avian Committee meet with a Brownie Troup for two sessions at Central/Denison School to help them earn a special avian badge. Zimmermann reported that the Brownie Troup was very attentive and “they will be birders.” The girls need to finish work on the badge and the committee will award certificates. There will be a presentation for parents, maybe at City Hall. Zimmerman will make plans and let Avian members know.

This curriculum/scout meeting was so well received that a local Cub Scout leader requested we meet with her Troup and help them with badge work. A shortened version was scheduled for October 12 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. McConnell suggested we focus on Purple Martins this time. Zimmermann suggested we call this topic Youth Outreach – “this outreach thing is working.”

9. Park Board Relationships and Thanks:

It was reported that Visit Lake Geneva will do another spread in the Visitor’s Guide and feature birding in Lake Geneva, including Swift Night Out. Zimmermann wants the focus to be on Four Seasons Nature Park and the Story Book Trail. A discussion followed about the Story Boards and whether or not we want to

keep them over the winter. The plan is to create a new story for the boards in time for World Migratory Bird Day next May. Flower recommends that we reprint some of the current stories and try a different plastic to cover them, as some of the boards have deteriorated. Zimmermann and McConnell suggested we talk to the Park Board and make some suggestions about this. They will write an update and thank you to the Park Board. Flower pointed out that it is in the current budget to move the large Four Seasons sign to a more visible location. Zimmermann talked to the reporter from the Visitor's Guide and suggested including what birds might be seen where. She also suggested we partner with the Park Board when they update their list of parks to mention what birds are likely to be seen there. Flower mentioned possible interest in the Lake Geneva area from a new quarterly outside publication.

10. Christmas Tree Walk:

Rodriguez is working on the plan for our participation in the annual Museum Christmas Tree Walk. McConnell showed us seed bombs in little mesh bags. Gallo will ask the Museum about use of bags to hand out.

11 Christmas Bird Count:

It was suggested we tie this to the Christmas tree walk. More discussion to come.

12. Next Meeting Date and Time:

Tuesday November 9 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chamber (the meeting might need to be held in Room 2A)

15. Future Agenda Items

- Bird City Application
- Budget Update
- World Migratory Bird Day activities
- Youth Outreach
- Cookies for a Cause Update
- Park Board and update
- Christmas Tree Walk at the Museum
- Potential Grant or Partnership Opportunities

Adjourn: Zimmermann moved to adjourn, seconded by Happ and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
9/26/21