

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers

1. **Call to order:** 6:03 PM by Alderperson Flower

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

3. **Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from June 2021**

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

4. **Comments from the Publics:**

There were no comments.

It was noted by McConnell that our new Martin sign on the lakefront has been vandalized. It should be vandal-proof. She will check with the sign company to see it is replaceable.

5. **Budget**

Rodriguez reported that we had a \$4,807.29 carryover from last year's budget, not spent primarily because of Covid. Flower presented a Finance Worksheet from the city showing the Avian Committee's budget vs. the actual amount spent through 7/21/21.

A discussion about the 2022 budget and plans for activities, outlays and improvements followed:

Martin Houses: Leonard suggested we purchase a few more Martin houses, Rodriguez said research shows that clusters of Martin houses are advantageous. Suggested we could buy 2 more houses from the carry-over balance. It was pointed out that we have already moved two of the Martin houses from unused sites (Museum and Pond View), but that Martin "scouts" are out looking for next year's nesting locations. McConnell suggested locating a Martin house in Flat Iron Park.

Grow Native: Committee questioned if "grow native" is really our area of interest. McConnell suggested we encourage use of native plants, speakers, materials, etc., but not plant and tend native gardens. She suggested we consider contacting Belinda at Burlington Garden Center for a Tuesday at 2 presentation and help the Geneva Lake Conservancy promote Conservation @ Home.

Grants – Zimmermann suggested we could aggressively pursue grant money.

Rodriguez suggested we request the same amount from the city as last year (\$3025) and use the carry-over money we have on hand for extra costs and activities.

Action: Committee members agreed to ask the City for the same amount as last year (\$3025); debit our carry-over \$1350, for a 2022 budget of \$4375. That leaves us with \$3450 (from carry-over funds) for projects, new houses, outreach, etc., as we determine the best uses.

Discussion about a budget narrative and presentation – Zimmermann will create a succinct presentation and spreadsheet. More discussion about the budget presentation at the next meeting.

6. **Purple Martin Update:**

Leonard reports a successful season – occupancy in every house. Birds have fledged, so hard to count now. Leonard and Gallo estimate about 80 to 85% of eggs hatched. Thanked the volunteers for doing a great job. Leonard used small amount of mite powder to fend off mites and blowflies – don't seem to have a problem.

7. Swift Night Out Update (September 9, 2021)

McConnell has two food vendors lined up so far. Rodriguez will contact Inspired about coffee.

McConnell said the Schlitz Audubon program will be similar to the one held at the library this summer, but ours will be indoors. Will ask Janet (Geneva Lake Museum) to help with publicity from the museum's end. Happ will help with other publicity, including the Badger backpack, VISIT Lake Geneva, local media, Lakeland Audubon and the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

Michael Schlesinger CBS Channel 58 weatherman/reporter will attend – we'll provide him with a PowerPoint and some talking points.

9. Christmas Tree Walk at the Museum

Forms have been sent – Rodriguez will let us know when to help set-up – need new ideas for decorations.

10. Cookies for a Cause

Avian Committee has the month of September. We will need a few volunteers to help package cookies and will need to provide rack cards. Zimmermann offered to create rack cards.

11. Bird City Application

Zimmermann reviewed last year's application – Suggested we work in teams on the areas that have changed to update the application.

Additional: Zimmermann reported that the local Brownie Troop would like to play the bird migration game – tentatively set for Aug 17 or 19.

12. Next meeting

Tuesday, September 7 at 6 p.m.

13. Future Agenda Items

- * Plaque for St. Francis School to be presented at the City Council meeting on Monday, September 13
- * Review Budget Request
- * Bird City Application
- * Public events and outreach/brochures
- * Purple Martin Update
- * Cookies for a Cause Update
- * Christmas Tree Walk and Christmas Bird Count
- * Learn to Soar Proclamation

14. Adjourn: Zimmermann moved to adjourn, seconded by McConnell and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
8/23/21