

Avian Committee

Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

City Council Chambers

Minutes:

1. Call to order: 6:08 P.M. by Alderperson Flower

2. Roll Call. The following members were present: Cindy Flower - Alderperson, Carol Zimmermann, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ. Beverly Leonard was excused.

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from April 13, 2021:

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

4. Comments from the Public: No members of the public were in attendance, either electronically or in person.

5. Purple Martin Update:

Purple Martins are beginning to arrive! The houses are all up - not all are opened because sparrows will nest if they are opened too early. They should all be opened by Mother's Day. Rodriguez reported that the sign would be put up soon by Public Works.

6. Four Seasons Nature Preserve and Park Board Collaboration:

McConnell reported she was unable to make the last Park Board meeting. Rodriguez reiterated that there is a good sign already onsite, but it needs to be moved closer to the street to be noticed. McConnell reported that the Park Board has discussed unifying signage, but not sure if they will move the sign. It should only take a few hours of work.

Alderperson Flower mentioned her neighbors Jim and Mary who had collaborated with the Audubon Society many years ago and was very familiar with the history of the park and what was done to naturalize it. Rodriguez urged that we meet them and have them tell us the story.

7 World Migratory Bird Day Update:

There is a lot going on! The Avian Committee has been meeting with a Girl Scout troop at Eastview School to help them learn about bird migration. Zimmermann reported that we are using games and information to get the girls energized and become bird people. The girls were really excited about journals they had been given and talked about the birds they had seen and recorded after the first meeting. Zimmermann also gave each of them a bird guide. They made storyboard posters about habitats. Next week they will walk from Eastview to Library Park, bird watching along the way to see to our Purple Martin houses. They will also be invited, with their families, to Swift Night Out. Their fifth and final badge requirement is outreach – how to energize other young people. They will submit recommendations to the Avian Committee. It was suggested that they be recognized at the City Council, work for a June 14 date.

8. Learn to Soar and Story Book Trail Update:

The fifth grade class Learn to Soar curriculum is now finalizing their Story Book Trails. Zimmermann proposed a presentation and celebration of the Story Book Trail the last week of May and publicize that it is open for the public to enjoy all summer.

Discussion about the installation of the signs – will Public Works be asked or do we do it ourselves. We will have a map for the location of each sign. (Kids helped select the locations). Zimmermann said the signposts are temporary – will not be cemented in. McConnell mentioned that the paths are mowed so we need to put the posts where they're not in the way. The students' storybooks will be put inside a Plexiglas case.

Zimmermann, Rodriguez and Happ, working with the school, will select a date and publicize it.

10. Bird Walk Update:

With our partners the Geneva Lake Conservancy, Audubon Society and the Environmental Education Foundation, we will host 45 students coming from St. Francis, Eastview and Travor Schools to the Conservancy's Bromley Woods for a guided bird walk. They will be treated to the field trip, lunch and expert speaker.

CZ made bifold brochures for students on how to bird watch, with links to our partners the GLC Audubon and the Environmental Education Foundation.

Zimmermann made a motion to spend an additional \$275 to cover the cost of the bus for Eastview elementary students to attend the Bird Walk on May 7. Flower reported that we have a budget of \$3025 for 2021 with a balance of about \$2000 as well as a carryover from last year for a total of about \$6800 available. The motion was seconded by Rodriguez and passed unanimously. We had previously agreed to spend \$500 on lunches, speaker and supplies.

11. Financial Report:

Discussion about the 2020 Financial Report. Flower shared documents and budget details from her computer. We discussed Zimmermann's budget addendum request. We have funds of \$718.63, plus money in the Grow Native fund. The City's actual budget was \$3025 for 2021. Zimmermann reported she has budget details in her shared Google folder as well.

Funds will be needed for our Swift Night Out program on September 9. Rodriguez reported we will be the recipients of Simple's Cookies for a Cause in the month of September. She will be asking for volunteers to help wrap. Zimmermann suggested we give one to each Council member to promote Swift Night Out. Last year we received almost \$400 from this donation.

12. Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 1st 6 pm in the Council Chambers

13: Future Agenda Items:

- a. Purple Martin update, including publicity. Need to wait for nests to proceed on this.
- b. Celebration of the Girl Scouts and June 14 meeting at City Council
- c. Celebration of Story Book Trail
- d. Follow up on bird walk
- e. Swift Night Out plans

f. Discussion regarding Lake Geneva Crossing outreach

14: Adjourn:

McConnell made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Zimmermann. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
5/25/2021