



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

**AVIAN COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA IS HOLDING MEETINGS VIRTUALLY WITH LIMITED CAPACITY IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

6:00 p.m. February 2, 2021 Avian Committee
Tue, Feb 2, 2021 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CST)

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AGENDA

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

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of meeting minutes from January 5, 2021
- 4) Discussion/ Recommendation regarding Strategic Plan for Avian Committee's activities
- 5) Discussion/ Recommendation regarding plans for Four Seasons Nature Preserve
- 6) Discussion/ Recommendation regarding Bird City application update
- 7) Discussion/ Recommendation regarding Learn to Soar update
- 8) Discussion/ Recommendation regarding Great Backyard Bird Count; Scheduled for February 12, 2021 through February 15, 2021

9) Future Agenda Items

10) Next meeting Date & Time

11) Adjourn

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

cc: Tourism Commissioners, Mayor, Administrator

Avian Committee

Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 6:00 P.M.

City Council Chamber and online

Minutes:

1. Call to order: 6:04 PM by Alderperson Flower

2. Roll Call. The following members were present in the Chamber or online: Alderperson Cindy Flower, Carol Zimmermann, Sarah McConnell, Beverly Leonard, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ.

There were not any members of the public in the Chamber or online.

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from December 1, 2020:

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

4. Four Seasons Nature Center

The committee held a discussion about the opportunities for the Avian Committee to help enrich and promote the city's Four Seasons Nature Park as a native plant and birding area. The committee is also looking to engage partner organizations, local volunteers and school/scouting groups to work with us. Neil Waswo (Public Works) attended the meeting and encouraged our participation. "You have a clean slate," he commented. Waswo mentioned a very involved volunteer several years ago named "Mary" who enlisted high school students to help with the prairie area and plantings, as well as maintained the educational signage at the entrance. Flower volunteered to reach out and contact Mary. Waswo explained that the city's Public Works Department regularly maintains the facility – shelters, mowing, trails, removal of buckthorn and other invasive species, and has plans to repair or replace parts of the existing boardwalk (excluding the tower area, which will not be replaced). Public Works also constructed and continues to take care of the birdhouses as time permits.

There followed a discussion of signage, both at the park and along Highway H. We agreed to study what is currently being used and see if there is money in the budget for sign improvements. The committee could also take over the educational display boards at the entrance.

Partnership and educational topics included engaging local groups – Rodriguez suggested contacting Badger Science Club, Interact Club and scouting groups. Also suggested creating a demo area for native plants, and promoting the facility as a birding site, not just nature paths. We could also incorporate repairing the birdhouses into our plans.

Wasco suggested obtaining a GIS plat from the Walworth County website. Mentioned that the city's compost site is on the property just north of Four Seasons.

The committee thanked Neil Waswo for attending the meeting. Flower suggested we get approval from the Park Board when we come up with a plan. Waswo suggested we talk to Lana Kropf relating to park permits.

Wasco said that our new Purple Martin sign would be installed when the frost goes out. McConnell has a spot in mind for the sign.

Zimmermann suggested a special one-hour strategic planning meeting to move forward on ideas for Four Season and for the 2021 Swift Night Out – this needs to be on the agenda. More discussion later.

5. Discussion/Recommendation regarding Bird City Application:

The Resolution needed to complete the Bird City application was passed at the December 14 City Council meeting. David Nord will upload the completed resolution, add the application fee of \$35 and submit. Keep this item on the agenda for an update.

6. Christmas Tree Walk:

Rodriguez reported that the Avian Committee's tree was charming but we need to put a little more thought into it next year.

7. Discussion/Recommendation regarding Environmental Education Foundation Grant (Learn to Soar)

The Avian Committee received a grant of almost \$1000 from the Environmental Education Foundation for our Learn to Soar educational program. Zimmermann updated her outreach to local teachers to offer the Learn to Soar program or for individuals to participate in the bird fair. Rodriguez contacted scouting officials in Madison who were enthusiastic, but we need local contacts. McConnell reported on the 4-H group involvement through a Madison contact. Everything is remote now but they have programs for building birdhouses, nature walks and cleanups. Premature now but this is a good group to keep in contact with. Elkhorn is the closest chapter and includes children from third grade through high school.

Zimmermann, Rodriguez and McConnell will get together to see who else might be interested in participating in the bird fair.

8. Grants and Fundraising - We Energies

Zimmermann stated that once we get a Four Seasons plan we might think about writing a grant.

9. Discussion/Recommendation regarding allocations to the Library for book purchases

Rodriguez reported that we have \$347.50 from Cookies for a Cause. We have also allocated \$300 to help the library purchase books and update the birding backpacks.

Rodriguez moved to allocate \$300 for the Library for materials and use the Cookies for a Cause money to enhance and replace materials in the backpacks. Karen Gallo seconded the motion. Flower asked about the library using some of our books for story time. Rodriguez thinks they will for sure when the library re-opens.

10. Great Backyard Bird Count

Zimmermann created a draft media release. Happ will help distribute the release to all our partners and media contact. The Great Backyard Bird Count has a great website with more details. Zimmermann also reached out to Lakeland Audubon and created a puzzle for our Facebook page. How can we use our social media to help facilitate the flow of information? It was suggested that Lake Geneva Lake Life and the Regional News have very active Facebook pages. Zimmermann will send the information to Flower to forward to the city's website. Rodriguez also suggested forwarding the information to the high school to send in their school backpack information. www.lakegenevaschools.com/district/community_backpack/community-backpack-submission

Our goal is to get this information to the media before Feb. 1.

11. Future Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan for Avian Committee's activities
- Discussion/plans for Four Seasons Nature Park
- Bird City Application update
- Learn to Soar update
- Great Backyard Bird Count, scheduled Feb. 12 to Feb. 15

Zimmermann will come up with ideas for a strategic planning session – we need at least 1.5 hours. Do we break into groups or have two meetings regarding future plans.

Flower will invite Neil Wasco to our next meeting. McConnell would like to ask him what kind of signage the city could provide. Flower would like to look at the photos to see what is available. She would like it to look like other Lake Geneva park signs.

11. Next Meeting Date -Tuesday, February 2 at 5:30 pm

In the City Council Chamber and online

12. Adjourn: Zimmermann moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10. The motion was seconded by Happ and passed.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
1/30/2020

MEMO

January 26, 2021

To: Avian Committee Chair, Alderwomen Flower & members: Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Kelley Happ, and Karen Gallo
From: Fellow member, Carol Zimmermann

RE: Proposed Outline for Strategic Planning item on the February 2, 2021 Agenda

Overview: Our very hard-working committee has many projects on our 2021 calendar. By reviewing, clarifying, and amending the working project plan (attached), we can:

- build collective understanding and buy-in for projects, events, and preparation steps,
- clarify tasks and timeframes,
- make sure that task leaders are identified (and willing),
- build task teams,
- look for synergies among projects and tasks, and
- assure that we are not over-reaching and overwhelming members or teams.

To that end, I propose

- review the planning calendar
- the task leader should lead the review/clarification discussion
- our valiant secretary (Kelley Happ) take general notes and I update the planning calendar
- edit the projects first that should be quick and then those that are mainly “stand alone”
- then move to the projects with the most overlap (to maximize synergies)

Therefore, I would propose the following structure.

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| 1) Review the calendar format (general – should be quick) | Zimmermann |
| 2) Review Bird City Application project (should be quick) | Zimmermann |
| 3) Review Budget Proposal timeline/tasks (should be quick) | Flower |
| 4) Review Great Backyard Bird Count (mostly done – should be quick) | Happ |
| 5) Review Museum Tree for 2021 (should be quick) | Rodriguez |
| 6) Review Cookies for a cause (clarify tasks and timeline – should be quick) | Rodriguez |
| <i>More complex, but mostly stand-alone projects</i> | |
| 7) Review Swift Night Out (clarify tasks & timeline – but pretty set) | McConnell |
| 8) Review Purple Martin Project | Leonard |
| <i>Projects with the most overlap</i> | |
| 9) Review Learning to Soar – explain relationships to
(Please see Figure 1 on following page) | Zimmermann |
| - World Migratory Bird Day – student proposals as project | |
| - Grow Native – Four Seasons proposal from students | |

- Env. Ed. Found. Grant – Bird Walk – students (possibility of integrating into the Grow Native/Four Seasons project and possibility of integrating scouts into both as well – need to work with partners (Lakeland & Conservancy))

Then...review, modify, add to the remaining projects

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| 10) World Migratory Bird Day Celebration | Zimmermann |
| 11) Girl Scouts – next steps, possibilities | Rodriguez |
| 12) Environmental Ed. Foundation Grant – building the collaboration, other | Happ & CZ |
| 13) Bird Walk – other tasks, including publicity | Happ & CZ |
| 14) Grow Native – discussion beyond student/scout | Flower |
| | |
| 15) Check-in – Calendar Review | Zimmermann |
| - Are we OK with the plan? Note any concerns or obstacles | |
| 16) Next steps and follow up for March meeting | Flower |
| 17) End this item | |

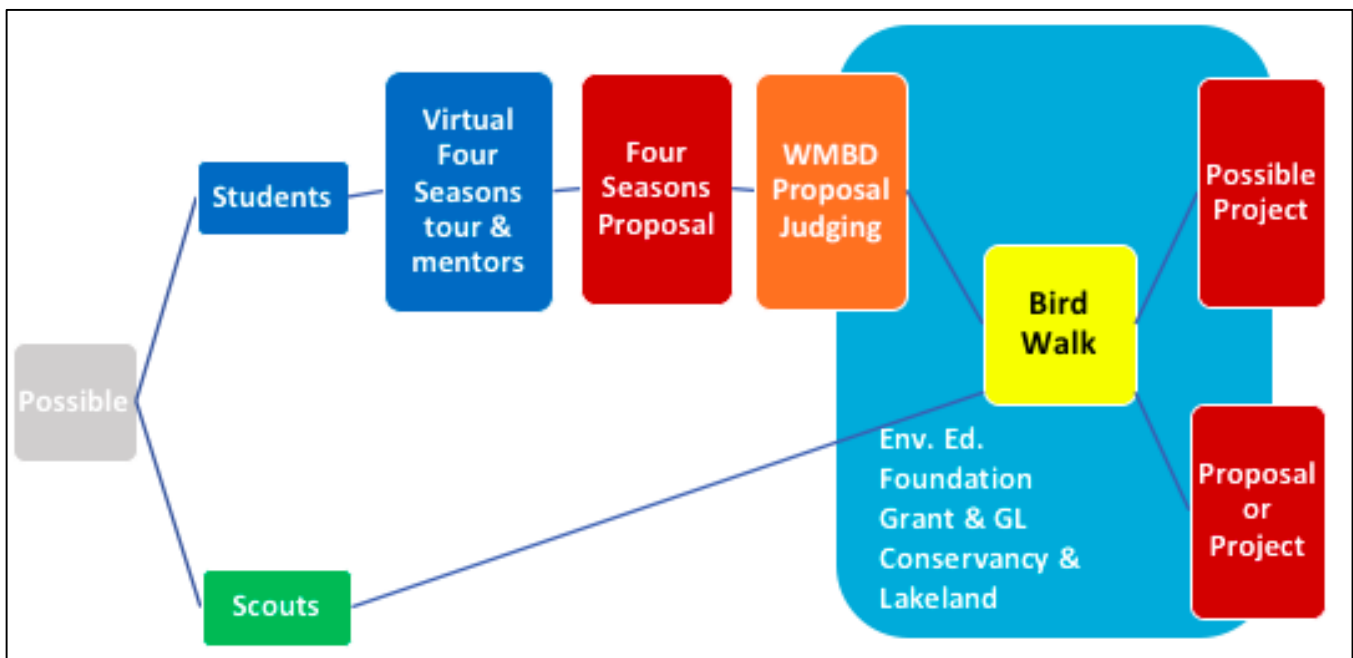


Figure 1. Possible Project Synergies

Avian Committee Planner

Month	Project	Project	Project	Event	Tasks	Start date	Due on	Task Team	Task Leader	Status
JANUARY	Bird City App.				Resolution - assemble, edit, review, & with Adm. to file	10/1/2020	1/31/2021	All	Cindy & Carol	
JANUARY	Learning to Soar				Meet with Teacher - prep 2021 curriculum	11/1/2020	1/25/2021	CZ & SM	Carol	
JANUARY	Great Backyard Bird C				Build promotional material & distribute	1/20/2021	1/25/2021	KH & CZ	Kelley	
JANUARY	Girl Scouts	Learning to Soar			Learning to Soar- for Girl Scouts - curriculum	1/1/2021	2/1/2021	JR & CZ	Jill	
FEBRUARY	Learning to Soar			Curriculum start	Unit 1 - lessons 1 through 5 + GBBC	2/1/2021	2/26/2021	CZ & SM	Carol	
FEBRUARY	Girl Scouts	Learning to Soar		Curriculum proposal due	Virtual meeting with Girl Scout leadership	2/1/2021	2/5/2021	JR, SM, & CZ	Jill	
FEBRUARY	Great Backyard Bird C	Learning to Soar		Great Backyard Bird Cout	Virtual event & possible media contacts & Student count	2/12/2021	2/15/2021	KH & SM & CZ	Kelley	
FEBRUARY	Grow Native				Planning - meetings with Parks, other partners?	2/1/2021	2/26/2021			
MARCH	Purple Martin				House preparation?			BL,SM,KG,KH	Beverly	
MARCH	Purple Martin				Sign? (Parks? City approvals?)			SM, CF, BL	Sarah	
MARCH	Purple Martin				Purple Martin article/news release (timing?)	3/1/2021	3/1/2021	BL, KG, KH	Kelley	
MARCH	Learning to Soar				Unit 1 - lessons 6 - 8, Unit 2 -1 & 2, & Migratory Bird Game					
MARCH	Learning to Soar			Migratory Bird Game	Tentative date -delivery mode (?)	3/29/2021				
MARCH	Girl Scouts	Learning to Soar			Tentative - badge proposal translated in curriculum	3/1/2021	3/31/2021	JR, SM, & CZ	Carol	
APRIL	Purple Martin				Opening houses - Volunteer recruitment (?)					
APRIL	Purple Martin			Volunteer Training	(date to go over protocol for this year?)					
APRIL	Learning to Soar				Unit 2 - lesson 3 & project proposal	4/1/2021	4/30/2021	SM & CZ	Carol	
APRIL	Learning to Soar	Grow Native		Comm. Review - 4 seasons	Review Proposal for student projects - Four Seasons	4/6/2021				
APRIL	Learning to Soar	Grow Native		Virtual tour & mentoring	Virtual mentoring on student proposals (dates TBD)	4/1/2021	4/1/30	all & partners	Carol	
APRIL	Girl Scouts	Learning to Soar			Tentative - first 2 meetings for badge curriculum			JR, SM, & CZ	Jill	
APRIL	World Mig. Bird Day	Learning to Soar	Env. Ed. Grant		Planning for WMBD - proposal related to 4 Seasons	4/1/2021	4/30/2021	all & partners	Carol	
APRIL	World Mig. Bird Day				Build and make plans to distribute publicity	4/15/2021	4/30/2021	CZ, SM, & CZ	Kelley	
MAY	Purple Martin				House checks/maintenance/record keeping	5/1/2021	5/31/2021	BL,SM,KG,KH	Beverly	
MAY	Grow Native				Improved signage for 4 Seasons (timing?)			all	Cindy	
MAY	Learning to Soar	Grow Native			Unit 3 - all lesson, mentoring, & project completion	5/1/2021	5/10/2021	CZ, SM, KH, all	Carol	
MAY	World Mig. Bird Day				Distribute media & social media/other publicity	5/1/2021	5/7/2021	CZ, SM, & CZ	Kelley	
MAY	World Mig. Bird Day	Learning to Soar		World Mig. Bird Day	student proposals for 4 Seasons	5/11/2021		All	Carol	
MAY	Env. Ed. Grant	Grow Native	Learning to Soar	Bird Walk - Students	Date TBD					
MAY	Env. Ed. Grant	Grow Native	Girl Scouts	Bird Walk - Scouts (tentative)	Hope to merge with students (tentative)					
MAY	Env. Ed. Grant	Learning to Soar	Girl Scouts		Prepare media releases and thank-yous	5/15/2021	5/30/2021	CZ, JR, KH	Kelley	
MAY	Grow Native	Env. Ed. Grant			Prepare info on Grow Native - media/articles	5/15/2021	5/30/2021	all & partners	Kelley & CZ	
JUNE	Purple Martin				House checks/maintenance/record keeping	6/1/2021	6/30/2021	BL,SM,KG,KH	Beverly	
JUNE	Env. Ed. Grant	Learning to Soar	World Mig. Bird Day	Council recognition	Date TBD - thank you to Grantor/students			CF & CZ	Cindy	
JUNE	Girl Scouts	Grow Native			Tentative - Girl Scout project at 4 Seasons	6/1/2021	6/30/2021	JR, SM & CZ	Jill	

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Purple Martin