

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2022, 6:00 P.M.

City Meeting Room A

1. Call to order: 6:04 by Sarah McConnell

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

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from June 14, 2022:

Motion to approve minutes by Zimmermann, second by McConnell and passed.

4. Comments From the Public:

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

5. Financial/Budget Reports:

Zimmermann submitted several bills associated with the Learn to Soar program. It is a transition period to a new city treasurer, so we assume that they will go through as requested. Yager suggested we check with the receiving companies to be sure they were paid. It was also suggested by Yager that if a purchase will be over \$50, we should try to bill the vendor directly to take advantage of the tax-exempt status, instead of paying it ourselves and asking for reimbursement.

6. Learn to Soar Update

Zimmermann suggested we make a good quality copy of this year's and last year's Storybook, one for the library and one for the school. The whole committee liked the idea and McConnell suggested a hardbound version, possibly from Snapchat or other online book provider. Zimmermann will look into this.

7. Update on Grants:

Happ and Yager will continue to work on a possible grant from S. C. Johnson Company, with the goal of having it ready by the end of August. Happ will contact Yager to get together on this project.

8. Swift Night Out Update:

McConnell reported that SNO plans are in place for the September 8 event. She submitted an application for an event permit with the city on July 12. The application will need to come before the Council of the Whole. Yager will let McConnell know when that meeting will be held. McConnell also shared four different menus from food vendor Fiddlesticks and we all agreed on a menu selection of hot dogs, brats and burgers. Jo Jo's (food vendor from last year) and Andrea Pether's Sweet Cream Ice Cream truck are also scheduled to service the event.

Materials and Publicity:

- * Zimmermann suggested printing 100 one-page handouts promoting Swift, and six yard signs
- * Contact the Library to have the information put on their electronic sign

- * Make rack cards for the Information Center and the hotels - suggest having them placed in early September. Zimmermann suggested we put Swift Night Out information on one side and information about the Martin colonies on the flip side. These rack cards can also be put in the library packs and at the Storybook trail.
- * Zimmermann will also design a generic 8.5" x 11" sheet with thumbnail photos and information on this year's event.
- * Press releases and information will also go out to Facebook, local papers, local Audubon groups and invitees. These should go out by the last week of August.
- * Contact Michael Schlessinger from CBS -TV 58 to see if he is available
- * Publicize through the Lake Geneva Life social media site – we will decide who can help with this project at the August meeting

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". Maybe the tone of the publicity should be the "Chimney Swift Hunt – will they come?" We need to consider telling the story about why the swifts come here or why they suddenly go somewhere else.

McConnell suggested giving scratchboards to children to fill in the lag time. She will look into potential costs.

9. Purple Martin Update

"We've got babies!" Gallo reported great success with Martin nests this year and suggested possibly relocating the Maxwell St. house. It was pointed out that the Martins seem to like the older house and McConnell suggested we let it go in that location another year. Possibly we could trim the nearby tree to open up the location. Leonard commented that it was a good idea to move the houses closer to the lakefront, as the birds have readily adapted to the locations near the water. Sparrows also nest in the houses, which should be discouraged. They do co-habit with Martins, but we don't want them to take over.

Gallo also commented that we can't get a true count right now because many of the babies are fledging and we can't risk opening the boxes. The Wolf's reported that one of their females died but the male is still feeding the chicks.

10. Calendar/Project Review and updates on partners:

The Geneva Lake Conservancy event that was rained out in July will be re-scheduled sometime in August. Date has not yet been determined.

Zimmermann pointed out that we will need to work on the budget and start the Bird City Application in August.

11. Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, August 9 at 6:00 pm in Conference Room A

14. Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes from July 12
- 4) Comments from the Public
- 5) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports and Updates/ **Budget Draft**

6) Bird City Application

- 7) Update on grants and potential grants
- 8) Swift Night Out update
- 9) Purple Martin update
- 10) Learn to Soar Update - Story Book Trail
- 11) 2022 Calendar/Project review and update
- 12) Next Meeting Date and Time
- 13) Future Agenda Items

12. Adjourn:

Zimmermann moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Yager and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
8/2/2022