

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

1. Call to order: 6:01 by Sarah McConnell

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

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from August 9, 2022:

A motion was made to approve minutes by Rodriguez, seconded by Yager and passed.

4. Comments From the Public:

There were no visitors present and no public comment.

5. Financial/Budget Reports:

It was reported that Carol Zimmermann submitted the 2023 budget proposal to the city. She, McConnell and Yager will attend the budget meeting to answer questions on Sept. 22. Yager confirmed that our time slot is 3:15 pm. She further explained that our request goes through the Park Board – they are a board – we are a committee. Everyone agreed that Zimmermann did an excellent job putting together the budget for next year.

6. Bird City Application:

Committee members agreed that we would not work on the application tonight, but that we would extend next month's meeting by half an hour to have time to thoroughly address the project. McConnell suggested that we each work on sections of the application beforehand, as we did last year, and have them ready for the October meeting. Yager requested that we be sent the Google Docs from last year.

7. Update on City Projects: South Street Trail and Weed Ordinance:

Yager reported that the South Street Trail is on hold. The City will try to amend the scope of the project with Wisconsin's DOT to see about a "Plan B" that would not include the proposed 10 - foot wide trail on the north side of the road.

Yager also reported that the City is continuing discussion on the Weed Ordinance. They agreed to hold a "No Mow May" to allow overgrowth of grasses and plants to help early pollinators and will continue to work on language about vegetation in front yards that serve as natural habitat. This information will be good to include in our upcoming Bird City application.

8. Update on Grants and Potential Grants:

Yager and Happ continue to work on the S. C. Johnson grant. Members discussed how to make this a longer range project, including possible ways to use the permanent trail signs for educational purposes if the Story Book Trail project would ever come to an end. Yager suggested we emphasize the educational and project-based-learning aspects of the project and not just the story book trail in our request title. Yager and Happ will meet mid-October to finalize the grant writing.

Rodriguez reported that the \$250 grant from "Go Native" was received. This money was used for busses for the Learn to Soar students for the Story Book Trail at Four Seasons Nature Park.

Rodriguez will also begin to work on a Tourism Grant in November that would provide funds to create a birding kit for local hotels. These could be similar to the birding backpacks that we provided to the Lake Geneva Library and could be a positive asset for hotels to promote environmental tourism.

9. Swift Night Out Update:

McConnell recapped the very successful event held on September 8. Upwards of 200 people attended and thousands of swifts appeared, to the delight of the crowd. She will contact and thank the vendors for their attendance. Next year we should just ask just one food truck, as there did not appear to be enough business for two. It was suggested that next year we put the name of the food vendor in the pre-event publicity. We had expected an ice cream truck, but they did not show up. The Schlitz Audubon Eagle and Friends program was extremely well received and McConnell suggested we ask them again next year. We did not get the SNO information out in the schools' electronic backpack program – next year we should be sure to use this avenue to get SNO information out to families.

10. Purple Martin Update

No further update.

11. Learn to Soar Update:

Nothing at this time

11. Calendar/Project Review and updates on partners:

We are on schedule with our projects

12. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 12 at 6:00 pm in Conference Room A

13. Future Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of the Minutes from September 13, 2022
- 4) Comments from the Public
- 5) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports and Updates
- 6) Bird City Application
- 7) Updates on City projects: South Street Trail and Weed Ordinance
- 8) Update on grants and potential grants
- 9) Christmas Tree at Geneva Lake Museum
- 10) Purple Martin update
- 11) Learn to Soar Update - Story Book Trail
- 12) 2022 Calendar/Project review and update
- 13) Next Meeting Date and Time
- 14) Future Agenda Items

14. Adjourn:

McConnell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm. The motion was seconded by Rodriguez and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Kelley Happ
9/22/2022