

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee
Tuesday, December 13, 2022
6:00 PM
Conference Room 2A

Call to order: Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Roll call: Present – Karen Gallo, Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, and Carol Zimmermann

Excused – Kelley Happ and Cindy Yager

Approval of the minutes from November 8, 2022

Move by Zimmermann, second by Rodriguez

Approved unanimously

Comments from the public (limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on the agenda)

Members of the public present were Carol Bradly and Councilperson MaryJo Fesenmaier.

Councilperson Fesenmaier indicated that she and Ms. Bradley were present to hear the updates in item 7, particularly the update on the South Street Trail.

Committee members related that the update on the South Street Trail was to be given by committee member and Councilperson Yager. However, earlier in the day, Councilperson Yager had notified the Committee members that she was not well and would not be attending. Councilperson Fesenmaier indicated that she understood that the amended application for the project had been submitted to the Department of Transportation and that a decision on the proposed changes would be forthcoming, although the timing of this was not clear.

Avian Committee Financial/Budget Report and Updates

Rodriguez suggested that the Committee review the expenditures for 2022 and the budget for 2023 during the January meeting.

Bird City Application

Mayor Charlene Klein had stopped by the Conference room prior to the meeting to inform the Committee that the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) Resolution had been passed by City Council. The remaining work to be done on the application involves the addition of some photos and documents, which Zimmermann said she could complete this week. The 2021 photos and documentation that will not be used for the 2022 record also need to be deleted or unpublished. Zimmermann indicated that she could complete this task as well. Zimmermann noted that she had been proof-reading but could use another set of eyes on the application. Rodriguez volunteered to read through the narratives again, assuming that this could be done the week of December 19. The Avian Committee has set an internal deadline to complete the main portion of the application by Thursday, January 12, 2023. The final steps for the application will be passed off the City Administrator Nord. These include paying the application fee, uploading the WMBD Resolution, and hitting the submit button. Committee members are hoping to have this done well in advance of the deadline. The deadline for submission is January 31.

Presentation for Bird City Conference

Administrator Nord had forwarded an invitation to present at the Bird City Conference, a special two-day meeting, to be held Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, 2023, at the Culver Family Welcome Center on the UW-Oshkosh campus. The City of Lake Geneva is one of two municipalities invited to present. The Committee was asked to submit a description of the presentation members were like to present. Zimmermann suggested that the presentation focus on the power of collaboration. Other members agreed that this was a good theme. Zimmermann will rough out a description and submit it to Bird City Wisconsin.

Updates on City projects: South Street Trail and Weed Ordinance

As noted in the section on public comments, Councilperson Yager was to present on the South Street Trail, so this item will be moved to the January meeting.

Zimmermann noted that she was able to upload a copy of the "No Mow May" ordinance to the Bird City application.

Update on grants and potential grants

Rodriguez reported that she was working on a tourism grant to support the marketing of hotel-based bird watching kits. She noted that the Committee will also need to find a funding source for the actual kits and birding hot-spot maps. Since the tourism grants are generally linked to a two-day event, Zimmermann suggested that the launch of the kits involve a two-day event that becomes part of the City's World Migratory Bird Day Celebration.

Zimmermann noted that the Committee needs to move forward with grant applications for the upgrading of the Storybook Trail. However, the members most directly involved with grant-writing for this purpose could not attend this meeting.

Therefore, the Committee indicated that an hour should be set aside for the purpose of writing, editing, and/or delegating various aspects of these two grants.

Adding an hour to the beginning of the next scheduled meeting appeared to be the best option for most members. This will mean that the next meeting would start at 5 pm, rather than 5 pm and would require securing a location for a two-hour meeting. Please see the agenda at the end of these minutes.

Christmas Tree at the Geneva Lake Museum's Parade of Trees

The tree was successfully decorated and presented. A picture of the tree has been uploaded into the Bird City application.

It was noted that some organizations have added rack cards to their display. The Committee would like to add these as well in 2023. Rodriguez volunteered that she has another artificial tree that might be used next year.

Purple Martin Updates

Leonard and Gallo noted that a few items will need to be purchased for the Purple Martin houses for the spring of 2023. Among these are nest boxes and perching rods.

The Purple Martin team also needs volunteer nest keepers. In the spring, the Committee is interested in designing and producing stickers to attach to predator guards. These stickers would direct potential volunteers to the Committee's email.

Learning to Soar – Storybook Trail Updates

Zimmermann reported that she is working on the calendar and updating materials for the 2023 class and wanted to get some potential dates on the Committee members' calendars.

February 17 (Friday) Zimmermann will be traveling and need someone to help out with seed and material distribution for the Great Backyard Bird Count. McConnell indicated that she could fill in. Gallo can help out if the presentation is in the morning.

Members were asked to check their calendars for March 31 (Friday) for the Migratory Bird Game.

2023 Calendar – Project review and updates

During the January meeting, Committee members will set a meeting date and time to review projects for calendar year 2023.

Next Meeting Date & Time

Tuesday, January 10

5:00 to 7:00 pm

Future Agenda Items

[Please note that the Committee is attempting to expand this meeting to two-hours to allow for grants planning and work.]

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes from the December 13, 2022 meeting
4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on the agenda
5. Work on grants for the upgrading of the Storybook Trail
6. Work on grants for the hotel bird-watching kits
7. Bird City Application
8. Bird City Presentation
9. Update on City projects (South Street Trail & others)
10. Purple Martin Updates
11. Learning to Soar – Storybook Trail updates
12. Planning for 2023 – setting a date/time for project planning
13. Next meeting date and time
14. Future Agenda items
15. Adjourn

Adjourn

Zimmermann moved to adjourn, seconded by Rodriguez, approved unanimously.

McConnell adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm