City of Lake Geneva, 626 Geneva St, Lake Geneva, WI 53147- 262.248.3673- www.cityoflakegeneva.gov

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA AVIAN COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 - 6:00 PM
LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; COUNCIL CHAMBERS (MAIN LEVEL)

Members:

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the July 11, 2023 Avian Committee minutes as prepared and distributed
4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda
5. Budget Outline
6. Swift Night Out Update and Event Details
7. Purple Martin Colony Update
8. Brief 2023 Calendar/Project review
9. Update on Potential Grants
10. Partner Updates
11. Christmas Tree at the Museum
12. Next Meeting Date & Time
13. Future Agenda Items
14. **Adjournment**

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

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6:00 P.M.
City Council Conference Room 2A

1. Call to order: 6:00 PM by Sarah McConnell

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

3. **Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from June 2023**
Motion to approve minutes by Zimmermann, seconded by Rodriguez. The motion was passed.

4. Comments from the Public
There were no members of the public present and no comments were submitted.

5. Financial Review
There was a brief review of the Avian Committee budget information, which was included in the agenda packet. We have a $3408.43 carry over. This does not include money to be used for Swift Night Out or buses for the Story Book Trail opening in May. We expect the bussing bills to be about $250.

There was a brief discussion about possible needs for the Purple Martin houses. Leonard reported that we have enough birdhouses and rooms for now and that the cables are healthy, although we have been having issues lowering the houses for inspection. Public Works staff has been helpful in inspecting the cables, but it was felt that it's the wrap on the nut, not the cables, that is the issue.

Projected expenditures for next year on the houses could include two separate perching rods, to be placed in two locations. It was felt this would be a good addition in helping to build our colonies. McConnell asked Leonard to bring prices for rods and poles to the next meeting. Leonard also reported that there is enough jackstraw for next year, and the houses are in good shape. She explained that she uses a mirror on a stick to check inside the houses when she lowers them.

6. Swift Night Out Update
McConnell reported that the plans are set for Swift Night Out on September 7 for food trucks and the Schlitz Audubon program. It was agreed to set the time slightly earlier for the food and entertainment so we could get outside in time to see the swifts beginning to circle. Food trucks are scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm; food sales will begin at 5 pm; guests will move inside at 6 pm for the Schlitz Eagle program, which should conclude by 7:00.

Other important issues include publicity, rack cards, invitations to City dignitaries and possibly other celebrities (maybe Donald Driver or Eric Menendez (meteorologist). Committee members will begin to work on these and have them ready by the next meeting.

7. Purple Martin Colony Updates
Leonard brought up the issue of sparrows invading and colonizing the Martin houses, explaining that sparrows can destroy Martin eggs, can kill the young in the boxes, and can even destroy existing Martin colonies by their invasive behavior. The committee agreed that our mission is to build Martin colonies. Further, they agreed that the Avian committee Martin Project chair and/or co-chair should set the protocol about deterring sparrows from our boxes. Leonard explained that sparrows should be discouraged by removing their nests from our Martin houses and that it is essential to get sparrow nests out houses before their eggs hatch, as per "best practices" from the Purple Martin Association.

It was agreed that Leonard and Gallo would contact volunteers to explain "Best for Martins" practices. They pointed out that volunteers might need to be trained to recognize the difference between a sparrow nest and a Martin nest and remove the invasive birds' nests and eggs immediately. This should not be too difficult if the volunteers are checking their boxes weekly.

It was suggested that a group text go out to all our volunteers to keep them informed of this policy

8. 2023 Project Review
The committee briefly reviewed the 2023 Project Calendar. We are on track for July, August and September projects. The committee agreed to address the Strategic Planning for the 2024 Learning to Soar program in September, after our Swift Night Out activities have concluded. The Story Book Trail project is complete for this year, but a question arose about what to do with the original pages from the last two Story Book Trail projects. Suggestions included giving them to St. Francis School or having them spiral bound and given to the library. It was decided to wait and see how the committee plans to proceed with the Learning to Soar Project.

9. Update on Potential Grants
Nothing at this time

10. Partner Updates
Nothing at this time

11. Next Meeting Date and Time
The next meeting date is **Tuesday, August 8 at 6 pm**, Lake Geneva City Hall Conference Room 2A

12. Future Agenda Items
- Budget Outline
- Swift Night Out Update and Event Details
- Purple Martin Colony Update
- Brief 2023 Calendar/Project review
- Update on Potential Grants
- Partner Updates
- Christmas Tree at the Museum
- Other

13: Adjournment:
Zimmermann moved to adjourn, seconded by Yager and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 8/2/2023
Kelley Happ