



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

**AVIAN COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025 - 6:00 PM
LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; CONFERENCE ROOM 2A (UPPER LEVEL)**

Members:

President Sarah McConnell, Beverly Leonard, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Victoria Ross, Kelley Happ,
and Cindy Yager- Alderperson

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda
4. Approval of the Avian Committee minutes from December 10, 2024
5. Financial Review and Update
6. Update from City Council
7. Bird City Application Status
8. Partnerships and Funding Opportunities
9. Birding Backpacks Project
10. Climate Change Topics/Updates
 - a. World Migratory Bird Day Activities
 - b. EV Chargers in Lake Geneva
 - c. Dark Skies Project
11. Next Meeting Date & Time
12. Future Agenda Items
13. Adjournment

*A quorum of the Council may be present; however, no official Council action will be taken.
Requests from persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made to the City Clerk's
office in advance so that the appropriate accommodations can be made.*

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 10th 2024 6:00 P.M.

City Council Conference Room 2A

1. Call to Order: 6:05 PM by Sarah McConnell

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

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 12th meeting was made by Rodriguez, seconded by Ross. The motion passed.

4. Visitors and Comments from the public:

None

5. Bird City Application

McConnell and Ross had to reschedule their meeting until December 18th to work on the project.

6. Proclamation for Bird City Application:

The Proclamation was found by McConnell

7. Budget Update and 2025 Financial Review:

The Budget for Avian committee is in good shape for the upcoming year.

8. Partnerships and Funding Opportunities

Currently there is nothing in the works

9. Birdwatching Backpacks for the City of Lake Geneva

Backpacks need to be reordered, Jill will reorder them herself and purchase them and submit the bill. Jill also has a good source for embroidery for future use. There is a goal of having April 1st for backpacks in place.

10. Climate Change Topics and Updates

Ross has asked Benjamin Zuckerberg from UW-Madison to speak at the world migratory bird day. It will be on May 17th from 10-12 in the Smith Reading Room at the Library. We are going to make this a family event with a kids program 5+ we will have bird houses for them to decorate, cookies, a water dispenser and some other fun things..a nice swag bag!

11. Miscellaneous

The EV chargers are in the works for Lake Geneva

Dark Sky's TBD

12. Next Meeting:

The Next Avian Committee meeting is on **Tuesday, January 14th at 6 pm in Conference Room 2A**

15. Future Agenda Items

☐ Update from City Council

☐ Bird City Application status

☐ Partnerships and Funding Opportunities

☐ Birding Backpacks Project

- ☐ Climate Change Topics/Updates
 - World Migratory Bird Day activities
 - EV Chargers in Lake Geneva
 - Dark Skies project
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Next meeting Date and Time
- ☐ Future Agenda Items

16: Adjournment:

Rodriguez moved to adjourn, seconded by Ross and approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully submitted, 12/22/2024

Karen Gallo

Journal	Reference Number	Payee or Description	Debit Amount	Credit Amount	Balance
11-70-00-47300 AVIAN DONATIONS					
		11/30/2024 (11/24) Balance	.00 *	.00 *	1,000.00-
		12/31/2024 (12/24) Period Totals and Balance	.00 *	.00 *	1,000.00-
YTD Encumbrance	.00	YTD Actual	1,000.00- Total	1,000.00- YTD Budget	250.00- Unearned 750.00-
11-70-00-57800 AVIAN COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
		11/30/2024 (11/24) Balance	.00 *	.00 *	2,280.07
AP	754	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	61.10		
		**Desc: DRAWSTRING BACKPACKS			
AP	756	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	79.50		
		**Desc: BIRDS OF THE MIDWEST PAMPHLETS			
AP	757	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	75.20		
		**Desc: BIRDS OF THE MIDWEST-SPIRAL BOUND			
AP	758	AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	575.90		
		**Desc: NIKON BINOCULARS (10 PRS)			
		12/31/2024 (12/24) Period Totals and Balance	791.70 *	.00 *	3,071.77
YTD Encumbrance	.00	YTD Actual	3,071.77 Total	3,071.77 YTD Budget	4,425.00 Unexpended 1,353.23
11-70-00-57810 AVIAN COMMITTEE DONATION EXP					
		11/30/2024 (11/24) Balance	.00 *	.00 *	.00
		12/31/2024 (12/24) Period Totals and Balance	.00 *	.00 *	.00
YTD Encumbrance	.00	YTD Actual	.00 Total	.00 YTD Budget	.00 Unexpended .00
Number of transactions: 4 Number of accounts: 3			Debit	Credit	Proof
Grand Totals:			791.70	.00	791.70

Report Criteria:

Actual amounts

All accounts

Account.Account number = "11700047300","11700057800","11700057810"

Account Number	Account Title	2024-24 Period Actual	2024-24 Current year Actual	Current year Budget	Variance Current year	% of Budget
GENERAL FUND						
MISCELLANEOUS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
11-70-00-47300	AVIAN DONATIONS	.00	1,000.00	250.00	750.00-	400.00
Total MISCELLANEOUS:		.00	1,000.00	250.00	750.00-	400.00
MISCELLANEOUS						
11-70-00-57800	AVIAN COMMITTEE EXPENSES	791.70	3,071.77	4,425.00	1,353.23	69.42
Total MISCELLANEOUS:		791.70	3,071.77	4,425.00	1,353.23	69.42
Net Total GENERAL FUND:		791.70-	2,071.77-	4,175.00-	2,103.23-	49.62
Net Grand Totals:		791.70-	2,071.77-	4,175.00-	2,103.23-	49.62

MEMORANDUM

TO: Avian Committee Members
FROM: Victoria Ross
DATE: December 30, 2024
RE: Migratory Bird Day Event

Attached is a Draft Timeline for the event on May 17, 2024.

Other Points to Ponder:

1. What other activities do we want / need to keep the younger participants busy for approximately 1 hour
2. Volunteers for helping with the Kids' activities
3. Gift Bags for Kids
 - a. Bird & Insect Coloring Pages
 - b. Bird Bracelet
 - c. Temporary Bird Tattoo
 - d. Bird Seed Ornament Recipe / Actual Ornament??
 - e. ***Your thought here***
4. Snacks
 - a. We discussed seeing if Piggly Wiggly would donate a cookie tray;
 - b. Popcorn is considered an eco-friendly snack. Do we know if there is a popcorn machine available to use?
 - c. We discussed using a water dispenser instead of bottled water. We should also consider using compostable plates, napkins & cups. I will do some research to see what alternatives are available.
5. Since we are limited to 70 participants, do we need to set up reservation system;
6. Promotion
 - a. Flyer to be designed
 - b. How early to post
 - c. Where to advertise: Library, Museum, public bulletin boards
7. What am I missing???

Avian Committee Migratory Bird Day Event

Draft Program

	Track 1 – The Smith Room	Track 2 – Library Patio
10: 30 AM	Welcome from Sarah McConnell	
10:35 AM	Reading of the book “The Purple Martin Palace	
10:55 AM	Transition	Craft Activity and/or Game
11:00 AM	Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Zuckerberg / “Canaries in the Coal Mine: Birds and Climate Change”	
12:00 PM	Snack & Purple Martin House Tours	



\$30.00

 VARIETY Pack - EIGHT Hanging Birdseed Ornaments -

EDIBEE Flowers, Butterflies & Bumblebees - Free Shipping!

1496FramesAndDesigns ★★★★★

- ✓ Arrives soon! Get it by Jan 2-10 if you order today
- ✓ Returns & exchanges accepted

Choose Ornament Shape *

Select an option

Select an option

[Add to cart](#)

Star Seller. This seller consistently earned 5-star reviews.

Star Seller: This seller consistently earned 5-star reviews, shipped on time, and replied quickly to any messages they received.

Item details

Highlights

Toilet Paper Roll Bird Feeder

Your wild birds will thank you for taking the time to make this Toilet Paper Roll Bird Feeder. It's a simple craft that is easy and fun for kids of all ages, especially preschoolers!

PREP TIME

5 minutes

ACTIVE TIME

10 minutes

TOTAL TIME

15 minutes

DIFFICULTY

Easy



Materials

- Cardboard tubes
- Vegetable shortening, such as Crisco
- Birdseed
- Hemp twine

Tools

- Butter knives or popsicle sticks

Instructions

1. Use a popsicle stick or butter knife to spread vegetable shortening on a clean toilet paper roll.
2. Roll the toilet paper roll on a plate filled with birdseed.
3. If desired, string a loop of hemp twine through the toilet paper roll.
4. Hang the toilet paper roll bird feeder on a bush, or slide it onto a branch.
5. Your toilet paper roll bird feeder is complete!

© Melissa Lennig

<https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/toilet-paper-roll-bird-feeder/>

Birdseed Ornaments

★★★★★ 4.80 from 5 votes

If you'd like to make additional ornaments, I recommend doing them in separate batches. That way, the mixture won't start to dry out as the ornaments are being made. You want the birdseed to be wet when going into the cookie cutters for maximum stick factor once dried, and prepping individual batches takes just a minute or two.



Servings: 3-4 ornaments made from standard-size cookie cutters

Prep Time 20 minutes

Total Time 8 hours

Ingredients

- $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup birdseed
- 1 packet (.25 ounce or 7 grams) of gelatin (unflavored—I use Knox)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup boiling water
- Cookie cutters, lightly greased*
- Twine and/or ribbon
- Parchment or waxed paper

Instructions

- ¹ Combine the gelatin and the water in a small saucepan and bring to a simmer, stirring constantly. Keep stirring until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Remove the pan from heat and allow the mixture to cool for one minute. Stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ cup birdseed, adding extra as needed until all the liquid is absorbed. (You won't want to add much more than 1 cup, otherwise there won't be enough "glue" to bind the birdseed once dried.)

- 2 Place the cookie cutters on a parchment or waxed paper on a baking sheet. (You can make the ornaments right on the counter, but a baking sheet allows for them to be easily moved aside later.) Fill each ornament halfway with the birdseed mixture. Lay a piece of twine down the length of the cookie cutter. Fill the cookie cutter to the top with remaining birdseed mixture, making sure to pack it down firmly. Allow the ornaments to dry for several hours or overnight. Once completely dried, gently press the ornaments out of the cookie cutters. If desired, add a decorative ribbon and hang on a tree branch for the birds to enjoy!
- 3 **STORAGE:** If not hanging the ornaments outside right away, they may be stored in an airtight container for a day or two in a cool, dry place. For longer storage, it's best to freeze them. Once moisture is introduced, seed is prone to mold and sprouting, which can still develop in the refrigerator. Additionally, seed moths or their larvae are sometimes already present in birdseed. Although this doesn't mean the seed has gone bad, moisture and humid conditions will hasten their development.

Notes

*The cookie cutters do not have to be greased, but lightly greasing them will make for extra easy removal once dry, especially when using ornaments with small angles like stars. Younger children may be better off using ornaments without tight corners, as these are slightly harder to pack with the birdseed. We use a very small spoon for this.

The key to ornaments that are sturdy and stick together is to press firmly on the birdseed mixture as you pack it into the molds.

<https://fountainavenuekitchen.com/birdseed-ornaments/>