

City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 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: Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Kelley Happ, Karen Gallo, Victoria Ross and Alderperson Cindy Yager. Beverly Leonard was excused.

3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 14 meeting was made by McConnell, seconded by Gallo. Ross made a motion to amend the minutes by attributing some comments in Item # 3 to the correct speaker under Item #6. The motion to amend was seconded by Happ and passed. The original motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.

4. Visitors and Comments from the Public:

Peg Esposito, JaNelle Powers attended the meeting. No comments.

5. Update from City Council

Yager announced she was appointed City Council representative to the Hillmoor Commission. She also updated the committee on the search for a new City Administrator and new Park Supervisor.

6. Budget Update and 2025 Financial Review:

Rodriguez was advised that carryover funds will not show on our current budget unless a formal resolution is made to ask for these funds. McConnell will make a request to the Comptroller to include carryover funds in the Avian budget.

7. Bird City Application

McConnell and Ross reported on their work to update our activities for the Bird City application. They have received a copy of the City Council resolution needed to include in the packet. They will meet to complete the packet and get it to the city clerk in time for her to send the completed packet to Bird City by Feb. 28.

8. Birdwatching Backpacks for the City of Lake Geneva

Rodriguez reported that the re-ordered backpacks have not yet arrived. She is completing a draft letter to hotels about the project and their possible participation and will forward the draft to committee. She has also reached out to a local graphic artist about producing brochures, etc. We will have 8 backpacks available by early April – VISIT Lake Geneva and The Lodge have already requested one.

9. Climate Change Topics and Updates

- **World Migratory Bird Day Activities**
- The date of May 17 in the Smith Reading Room at the library is confirmed, as is the speaker. Ross confirmed that an honorarium check for the speaker will need to be requested one month in advance. She will follow up. Ross also presented a timeline for the speakers and reported that library staff will read to children and help oversee craft activities outside while adults are inside with the speaker. Friends of Hillmoor group is also interested in participating.
- **EV Chargers**
Yager reported no new information available.
- **Tuesday at 2**
- It was suggested we participate in the “Tuesdays at 2” program at the Geneva Lake Museum. We agreed that Tuesday, April 1 would be good, as bird migration season is beginning. Happ suggested topics helpful to migrating birds, including dark skies and bird-friendly plantings and local legislation regarding bird-strike mitigation. Gallo will check the date. Happ will follow up with speaker ideas.

10. Next Meeting:

The Next Avian Committee meeting is on **Tuesday, March 11 at 6 pm in Conference Room 2 A**

11. Future Agenda Items

- Update from City Council
- Budget Update and 2025 Financial Review
- Bird City Application status
- Birding Backpacks Project
- Climate Change Topics/Updates
 - World Migratory Bird Day update
 - EV Chargers in Lake Geneva
 - Tuesdays at 2 program update
- Purple Martin House updates; bird houses for Hillmoor (future)
- Other
- Next meeting Date and Time
- Future Agenda Items

12: Adjournment:

Ross moved to adjourn, seconded by Rodriguez and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, 2/28/2025

Kelley Happ