

AVIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES

For

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA

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

1) Call to Order

Alderperson/Chair Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2) Roll Call

Present: Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Carol Zimmermann, and Cindy Flower. Excused: Karen Gallo and Kelley Happ

3) Approval of the minutes from February 10, 2022

Moved by Zimmermann, seconded by Rodriguez. No Discussion. Approved unanimously.

4) Comments from the public

One member of the public was present (Courtney, last no name given). She informed the committee that she had noticed a sick Goldfinch at her feeder and recommended that the committee help to inform the public about the need to routinely clean feeders and bird baths.

5) Lake Geneva Tree Board

Members of the Tree Board attended the meeting. Members attending were Candy Kirchberg, Chairperson, Sonya Dailey, Clara Jacobs, and John Foster, Arborist.

After introduction, the two groups shared information in hopes of finding ways to work together to achieve common goals. Avian Committee members gave an overview of their projects (see updated planning calendar below). Tree Board members highlighted their planned Arbor Day Celebrations and their work on public education and outreach, especially as it related to native trees.

Of note as potential areas for strategic partnerships were elementary education, work on Four Seasons Nature Preserve and the Storybook trail, and grant-writing. The Tree Board is working an elementary education project, with the hub at Central-Dennison in Maple Park. Students are learning about Maple trees and how to grow trees from seeds. The planned capstone of this project will be a celebration and tree planting at Central Dennison for Arbor Day. Similarly, the Avian Committee has implemented a bird-focused, fifth-grade elementary education program at St. Francis de Sales. Avian Committee members expressed interest in promoting and supporting the tree program and will exchange emails to facilitate collaborative efforts. Tree Board members were interested in serving as experts for the research portion of the Storybook Trail project. Zimmermann will create and share the email roster to assist both committees in sharing information, especially potential event dates.

Public outreach and public education at Four Seasons Nature Preserve was also identified as an area for strategic partnership. Efforts to promote understanding of native trees and plants, as well as animals – such as birds – were discussed. These included adding information on native trees and a “Tree City” poster on the entrance signs at the park. In addition, park board members will consider ways to present interpretive information about the native trees at the park.

The two groups also pledged to assist one another in seeking out and writing grants for outreach materials, such as interpretive signage.

Along with agreements to continue to seek out ways to work together, the combined groups also discussed ways to integrate public outreach and policies to encourage native plants and bird-and-pollinator-friendly yards and public spaces. This included a discussion of ways to seek and invite joint meetings and projects with the City Beautification Commission and Park Board.

6) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports

Chair Flowers briefly reviewed the financial reports provided by Comptroller Hall and the resolution by Council to approve \$347 in carryover. With all funds totaled, the budget amount for 2022 is \$5,154. Zimmermann moved to accept the report, Rodriquez seconded. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

7) Learning to Soar update, including Story Book Trail

Zimmermann reported that during the Backyard Bird Count, the 20 Learning to Soar students had done an exemplary job bird-watching, identifying birds, and reporting their observations to eBird (the global database). Students recorded 154 birds and 21 different species.

At this point, volunteers can expect to assist with the Migration Game. Details will follow, but all are asked to save the date - Friday, April 8, 2 to 3 pm.

8) Update on potential grants

Rodriguez reported that she is working on the final draft for the Go Outside grant. Members can edit and provide comments.

Happ was not in attendance for this meeting, but let us know that she has the longer-term grant in draft form and that will be reviewed Wednesday, April 6.

Rodriguez also brought a new idea for grant-writing. Committee members were very interested in her idea to write a tourism grant to acquire bird-watching kits for hotels (and potentially, the visitor center). Along with binoculars and bird-identification materials, she suggested that an intern might be hired to create lists of birds in our city parks and locations. This was an objective discusses at the 2022 planning meeting and this effort could help serve that purpose as well.

9) Review Local Ordinances and issues

Flowers is working on providing the committee with information on ordinances regarding mowing and plants, especially those that might prohibit best practices for native planting and preserving habitat for needed species, such as caterpillars and other insects, that are part of the critical food system for birds.

10) Swift Night Out update

McConnell continues to work to plans for the Swift Night Out indoor program and for food vendors.

11) Purple Martin Update including our “Open House” event July 9

Rodriguez reported that the committee can sponsor a booth at the author fair. Happ has a potential bird book author to feature.

Zimmermann asked if Leonard, Gallo, and/or McConnell could provide assistance to our partner – the Geneva Lake Conservancy – to assist them in planning for their new Purple Martin House in the fishing park. Zimmermann will attempt to coordinate dates for visits to our houses and potential siting visits to the fishing park.

12) Brief 2022 Calendar/Project review

This was generally covered in the discussion with the Tree Board and the calendar is noted below.

13) Next Meeting Date & Time (April 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 2A)

14) Future Agenda items

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of the minutes from March 10, 2022
- 4) Comments from the public
- 6) Avian Committee Financial/Budget Reports
- 7) Learning to Soar update, including Story Book Trail
- 8) Update on grants and potential grants
- 9) Review local ordinances and issues
- 10) Swift Night Out update
- 11) Purple Martin update including our “Open House” event July 9
- 12) Brief 2022 Calendar/Project review and updates on partners (including the Tree Board, Park Commission, Geneva Lake Conservancy, Public Library of Lake Geneva, Lakeland Audubon, and the Geneva Lake Museum)
- 13) Next Meeting Date & Time (Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 2A)
- 14) Future Agenda items

15) Adjourn

Zimmermann moved to adjourn, seconded by Rodriguez, approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:28 pm

For Secretary Kelley Happ,
Respectfully submitted,
Carol Zimmermann

[Planning Calendar attachment below]

March 10, 2022

To: Members of the 2022 Avian Committee of Lake Geneva
From: Carol Zimmermann

Re: Priorities set at January Planning Meeting - Updates

Here are the 2022 priorities, projects, and team leaders that we identified. These are in summary form and sorted by two-month periods. Please let me know if I have erred in recorded any of the information. This provides some updates. **February updates and March needs are highlighted in yellow.** Please note: Fixed event dates are noted in [brackets].

January – February

Yearly Planning Carol

Bird City Application (due date) [Jan 31] Carol

Learning to Soar (classes) Carol

Great Backyard Bird Count (in class) [Feb 18-22] Carol

Update: First class complete (intro and bird ID, bird id posters, all about birds QR), Second class – GBBC, seed packets, and eBird inputting will be Friday, Feb. 18

Update: Great work by the students (154 birds, 21 species)

Update: see notes on Bird Migration game (April)

Great Backyard Bird Count (outreach) [Feb 18-22]

Grant Plan (writing, leaders, and deadlines added as **updates**) Carol, Sarah, Kelley, Jill

Updates: (see deadlines in March)

Short term grant (materials & transportation for Storybook Trail – grant to GO OUTSIDE <

\$500 Jill

(March) Carol- school info, Kelley edit

Longer-term grant (replace signs for trail in 2023 – grant inquiry first to SC Johnson, if a no-go then to Alliant Energy (CZ drafts). Grant request – around \$2,000 (10 signs at \$200 each) Kelley

Meet/coordinate plans with Tree Board Sarah

Meet/coordinate plants with GLC Carol

Update: See Purple Martin house at Fishing Park (April)

Update: See information sharing for Oak exhibit at the Library (now to May)

CZ has provided some general information about the relationship of birds and Oaks and will continue to provide additional information and resources to the GLC and artist designing the exhibit.

Update: See Purple Martin shared events (July)

Meet/coordinate with **Park Board** Cindy

Review issues – possible City Council actions Cindy

Cookies for a Cause application (bird info for park's web pages)

Update: not this year

Jill

March – April

Update: Need workday to update/assemble pieces of the Migration Game Carol & _____

Late March Date???

Learning to Soar (classes/migration) Carol

Update: Bird Migration Game - Friday, April 8, 2 to 3 pm Carol

Tentative, but please mark this on your calendar if you can work the game

Purple Martin Colony prep Bev & Karen

Update: GLC partnership

[Note: Karen is planning to come back the week of March 20]

Update: Need to coordinate a date to assist GL Conservancy on houses

Update: See possible children's bird walk (May)

Update: Please note the walks that the GLC is already planning

Tuesday, April 26th: Hermansen Woods (Lake Como) Field Trip - West Side Elementary, 5th grade.

Friday, April 29th: Hermansen Woods (Lake Como) Field Trip - West Side Elementary, 5th grade.

Friday, May 20th: Wallace E. Zabler Preserve (Burlington) Field Trip - Dyer Elementary School, 4th grade.

Assist Outreach Coordinator (Maddie) to prep the new GLC Purple Martin house at the fishing park (also information, contacts, materials, interpretive materials) Bev, Karen, Sarah, Carol

Storybook Trail (class site visit- prep) Carol & Sarah

Storybook Trail (liaison with Parks) Cindy

Storybook Trail (signs/trail prep) Jill

Storybook Trail – Grant Team

Update: Grant Review – April 6 (Wed) Kelley and team

Update: GO OUTSIDE grant drafts due Jill (CZ & Kelley)

Update: Longer-term grant – Grant committee to decide if SC Johnson is viable Kelley
(Jill, Sarah, Carol)

Meet/coordinate with **Park Board** Cindy

Review issues – possible City Council actions Cindy

May - June

Purple Martin Colony – open houses and monitor Bev & Karen

World Migratory Bird Day Event Organization [May 19] Sarah

Story book Trail (class coordination) Carol

Storybook Trail (launch coordination) Kelley

Storybook Trail (publicity) Kelley

Storybook Trail (graphics) Carol

Storybook Trail (printing/installation) Sarah

WMBD – Coordinate with GLC – Bird Event	Carol
<i>Update: Possible GLC special bird walk (maybe to Oak) with children/students for WMBD</i>	Carol

July – August

Purple Martin Colony – Monitoring	Karen & Bev
Purple Martin – family-friendly event [July - mid – Date TBA]	Karen & Bev
<i>Update: GLC partnership</i>	
GLC wants to hold a Purple Martin/Bird event at the Fishing Park July 1	Carol
<i>Would like to partnership with Avian Committee on planning & link their event and our event</i>	
Purple Martin (publicity)	Kelley
Purple Martin (graphics/printing)	Carol
Swift Night Out (event planning)	Sarah
Swift Night Out (publicity)	Kelley
Swift Night Out (graphics)	Carol
Budget request	Jill
Budget narrative	Jill

September – October

Purple Martin Colony – Monitoring & closing up	Karen & Bev
Swift Night Out (event coordination) [Sept 8]	Sarah
Swift Night Out (media/outreach)	Kelley
Swift Night Out (graphics/printing)	Carol

November – December

Bird City Application	
Museum Christmas Tree	Jill
Promote Christmas Bird Count	Kelley

All year long tasks (requiring leaders)

Meeting leadership	Cindy
Secretary/note-taking	Kelley
Budget (keeping track of expenditures vs budgeted)	Cindy
Photography	Kelley
Media releases/publicity	Kelley
Graphic Design	Carol
Facebook & Twitter	