

AVIAN COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013 AT 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 5:34 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Alderman Wall, Maureen Winkler, Mackenzie Bestold and Donald Forbes.

Approval of Minutes from August 2, 2012 and August 28, 2012.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes. None.

Nomination of President and Secretary.

Alderman Wall noted a recent change to Ordinance 12-23 (Section 1(d)) which now states that members of city committees should elect a President and Secretary; the Alderman is not required to chair the committee.

Alderman Wall opened the floor for nominations. Winkler nominated Alderman Wall to serve as President, seconded by Forbes. Alderman Wall accepted; unanimously approved.

Alderman Wall nominated Bestold as Secretary; seconded by Winkler. Accepted; unanimously approved.

Discussion on Great Wisconsin Birdathon

The Birdathon is an event observed during the month of May to encourage bird observation and raise money for bird cities and the Bird Protection Fund. Lake Geneva has not participated in the program in the past.

Committee discussed potentially pooling resources with other area Bird Cities (Williams Bay, Fontana) to celebrate the event this year. Members of the Lakeland Audubon Society were present at the meeting and suggested a Bird Walk during which bird observation could be done.

Given so little time to prepare and fundraise, Committee decided to postpone participating in the Great Wisconsin Birdathon in 2013 and set it as a goal for 2014.

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)

Committee recapped success of first IMBD celebration in Lake Geneva last September featuring a "Swift Night Out" at the museum. Mr. Forbes (and represented guests) suggested the event be held earlier than September to catch peak migration of the Swifts. All committee members agreed and selected August 22 or August 29 as possible dates for this year's celebration. Final date will be determined closer to Fall migration season.

Mr. Forbes asked if Administrator Jordan checked on the availability of the Riviera chimney as a potential swift habitat. Alderman Wall did not know, but would follow up with Jordan. Mr. Forbes also asked if the city would consider a man-made tower on the Riviera building given that the Riviera would be a prime location for next year's event. The committee discussed the unlikelihood that appending a new structure on the Riviera building would be approved.

Following up on last meeting's discussion, Alderman Wall commented that Badger High School students would be willing to build Swift towers if provided with materials. Material cost per tower is \$500. Forbes distributed mock-ups of swift nest boxes that could be built in lieu of a tower. One 4 x 8 piece of plywood can make four units. Concern was raised that Starlings and Sparrows may overtake the nest boxes rather than Swifts for which the boxes are intended. It was determined that Winkler's husband will make the first prototypes of nest boxes. The committee will discuss where to hang them at the next meeting. Possible locations include Badger High School, Central Dennison School, new park at old Hillmoor site, park along White River.

Alderman Wall will ask Mike Dunn of Dunn Lumber if they might consider material donations for future construction of nest boxes or towers for the Swifts.

Discussion on future agenda

Bestold suggested further planning discussion on IMBD for August and Bird House construction.

Discussion on future meeting date.

The Committee agreed to meet next on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 PM

Adjournment

Winkler/Bestold motion to adjourn. Unanimously carried.

Mackenzie Bestold, Secretary 4/13/13

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BY THE AVIAN COMMITTEE**