

AVIAN COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 5:30 PM
City Hall, Conference Room 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 5:35 PM.

Roll Call: Present: Maureen Winkler, Mackenzie Bestold, Donald Forbes and Alderman Wall. Others in attendance: 3 guests.

Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2013 motioned by Ms. Maureen, seconded by Ms. Bestold.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.

Guest commented that the chimney swifts are here! She saw them near the museum.

Discussion on planning of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) event.

Discussed two possible dates for IMBD: Thursday, August 22 or Thursday, August 29.

- Committee discussed August 29 might draw a larger crowd due to Labor Day visitors.

Mike Hawes has offered to create a brochure on the event again this year as he did last year. The Riviera chimney will be opened sometime in June/July. Utility Commission chimney will also be open. IMBD location still planned for museum until there is evidence of nesting at Riviera. The Riviera would be ideal for publicity purposes as it is more heavily trafficked than the museum. Ms. Winkler will inquire as to the status of the Catholic Church's chimney.

Alderman Wall will ask Dennis Jordan to arrange for a speaker from the same group as last year. Speaker presentation is planned for 6:30 PM.

Alderman Wall will contact Piggly Wiggly as the date draws closer to arrange for a cake.

Discussion on construction/location of bird houses.

Ms. Winkler presented two bird houses constructed by her husband – a bat house and a chimney swift nest box. The committee reviewed construction diagrams and improvement opportunities (i.e. nesting grooves). Mr. Forbes commented that the bat house should have a slot hole rather than a circle hole. Additional information on bat houses is available through Bat Conservation International. Ms. Winkler also noted that it would be possible to apply decals to the houses if desired as additional PR for Lake Geneva's Bird City status. The committee thanked Ms. Winkler and her husband for donating their time to construct the bird house prototypes.

Estimated cost of construction was \$15 per house; estimated time of construction was 45-60 minutes. Alderman Wall stated that he had spoken with a contact at Badger high school and they are interested to help with construction of additional houses in the Fall. Mike Dunn of Dunn Lumber will donate necessary materials. Ms. Winkler will confirm whether treated or untreated wood is required. Committee agree that 16 houses should be constructed initially. Ms. Bestold volunteered to reach out to Superintendent Gottinger to discuss the possibility of using Lake Geneva schools as possible locations for the houses. Houses must be attached to the shady side of a building preferably under the eaves. It was decided to adhere two-three houses to each building available in the Fall in preparation for the Spring migration.

Discussion on future agenda and meeting date.

Agenda items:

- IMBD planning

- Follow up on outstanding items for bird houses – construction, location, maintenance (houses will require regular monitoring)
- Birdathon 2014

Next meeting: Thursday, July 11 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

Bestold/Wall motion to adjourn at 6:25PM Unanimously carried.

Mackenzie Bestold, Secretary 7/9/13