

## **AVIAN COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 5:30 PM**

**City Hall, Conference Room 2C**

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

**Roll Call:** Present: Maureen Winkler, Mackenzie Bestold, Donald Forbes, Alderman Wall and four guests from the Public.

Approval of Minutes from July 11, 2013 motioned by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Ms. Bestold.

### **Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.**

Correction to the July minutes – the speaker at IMBD was Bill Mueller, not Bob.

Bird house was seen under the eaves at the Water Utility Commission.

### **Recap of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) event.**

This year marked another successful of Swift Night Out. Those who attended did see swifts; however attendance was lower than last year. Committee discussed need to consider other city events (i.e. Music in the Park) for next year's event. Earlier may be better to see more swifts, but much is dependent on weather. May want to avoid Thursdays if the event is hosted before Labor Day to eliminate conflict with Music in the Park.

Public noted that the American Legion Hall was another site of swift sightings. Its chimney is open.

### **Bird Houses**

Ms. Winkler's husband, Dan, did attach a bird house to the side of the Utility Commission.

Alderman Wall commented that a local high school student, Gavin, has committed to constructing the next 16 bird houses as part of his senior project. Dunn Lumber will be providing the materials to Gavin. Alderman Wall will follow up.

Ms. Bestold awaits a call back from Scott Reiff regarding possibly hanging the new bird houses to Lake Geneva area schools. Dan Winkler has already said more could possibly be hung at the Utility Commission.

### **Birdathon**

Ald. Wall stated that the 2013 Wisconsin Birdathon raised over \$55,000. The Birdathon is an annual fundraising event across the state of Wisconsin where teams receive pledges for each species of bird counted. Part of the money is kept locally and part goes towards state funding.

As the committee considers planning a local Birdathon, it should avoid May 10-11<sup>th</sup> as that is the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology's annual event.

Committee discussed the need to find qualified birders before even considering the event. Ald. Wall will ask Marie Collins if there are any birders/bird studies at Badger. Additionally, he will check with the Bird City contacts in both Williams Bay and Fontana to determine if they may want to co-sponsor the event. Public guests commented they will gauge interest of potential participants at the next Audubon Society meeting in late October. Mr. Forbes will check with Frank Gusky, in charge of Cub/Boy Scouts, to see if they may be interested in participating.

If we do choose to develop the event, possible advertising placements could include: Lake Geneva Regional News, Chamber of Commerce, city website.

**Discussion on future agenda and meeting date.**

Agenda items:

- Birdathon 2014
- Bird City status preparation/discussion

Next meeting: Thursday, January 2 at 5:30 PM.

**Adjournment**

Forbes/Winkler motion to adjourn at 6:05 PM. Unanimously carried.

Mackenzie Bestold, Secretary 10/4/13