

AVIAN COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 5:30 PM

City Hall, Conference Room 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 5:32 PM.

Roll Call: Present: Mackenzie Bestold, Donald Forbes, Dennis Jordan, Alderman Wall, Maureen Winkler and two guests from the Public.

Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2014 motioned by Ms. Winkler, seconded by Ms. Bestold.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.

None.

Update on Chimney Swift Bird Houses

Alderman Wall reported that he spoke with Ms. Collins at Badger High School and the students were halfway through with completion of the requested 16 bird houses. Ald. Wall will check with the woodworking teacher to see if all will be completed before May to ensure time for installation throughout Lake Geneva.

Bird City High Flyer Status

Committee reviewed requirements for "High Flyer" award among Bird City again. Goal is to meet requirements in 2014 for qualification in 2015. Five (of 17) categories were reviewed by committee that make the most sense for Lake Geneva's qualification.

Category 1: Creation & Protection of Habitat Category:

- 1A. Show how & where the community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands or prairie. *Mr. Jordan will connect with Carl Schwartz to determine the qualifications for "restoration." Committee believes Four Seasons should satisfy this requirement.*
- 1E. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to preserve Chimney Swift roosting sites and/or to contrast alternative Chimney Swift towers. *Recent uncapping of Utility chimney will meet this requirement. Uncapping the Riviera chimney is still under review.*
- 1I. Document the fact that the community maintains a birding trail or "hot spot" location with educational signage and/or literature. *Again, Jordan to confirm that Four Seasons will qualify.*

Category 3: Limiting or Removing Hazards to Birds

- 3E. Show how the community supports a bird collision monitoring program and/or offers information and material for preventing window collisions in homes and commercial establishments. www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/birdsafebuildings.aspx
- 3F. Document that the community has registered as a bird-safe community on the Wisconsin Humane Society/Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. *Ms. Bestold researched the requirements for registration and thinks Lake Geneva's City Hall building would qualify.*

Ald. Wall confirmed Lake Geneva was registered as a Bird City for 2014. There is a plaque hanging on the wall at City Hall in 2A.

Discussion on the Bird City Wisconsin Summit

Mr. Forbes will represent Lake Geneva at the Bird City Summit in Oshkosh, WI on March 21 and 22.

Mr. Jordan will review funds in his budget to cover the cost of Mr. Forbes hotel for two nights and the conference. Mr. Forbes will report to the committee during the May meeting

Discussion on American Kestrel Partnership

Mr. Forbes proposed participating in the American Kestrel Partnership. The partnership is open to individuals or groups of individuals interested in contributing to the monitor of Kestrel birds.

Participation requires building a nest box for Kestrels and reporting the monitored activities of the birds to the Kestrel partnership.

Forbes suggested that the Avian Committee “sponsor” partnership in conjunction with another area organization (Lakeland Audubon or Boy Scouts). Lake Geneva would purchase the nest boxes and identify sites to install them. The partner organization would provide the monitoring of the boxes.

Ms. Winkler cited that her husband suggested five viable locations for the nest boxes within Lake Geneva:

1. Wastewater site on Hwy 50 – public access not allowed which may not work for monitoring.
2. Four Seasons Nature Preserve
3. New Disk Park (holes 7 – 13 on Hillmoor)
4. Dunn Field Security Camera Pole
5. North of Water Utility Building and West of Country Club Dr.

Forbes will present the idea to the Lakeland Audubon Society at their March meeting. Ald. Wall will reach out to a contact at Boy Scouts. Forbes also has a contact by which free nest boxes may be available. He will update the committee on the viability of free boxes in May.

2014 Swift Night Out

Committee discussed potential dates for the 2014 Swift Night Out event. Tentative date is set for Wednesday, August 13. Next steps are to ask Bill Mueller to speak at the event. Ald. Wall will check into availability of the Museum to host the event.

Discussion on future agenda and meeting date.

Agenda items:

- Bird Summit report from Mr. Forbes
- Bird Houses – construction update.
- Bird City High Flyer – update on outstanding items from Mr. Jordan.
- Kestrel Partnership

Next meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

Bestold/Forbes motion to adjourn at 6:19 PM. Unanimously carried.

Mackenzie Bestold, Secretary 3/8/14