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**AVIAN COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020- 5:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**THE CITY OF LAKE GENEVA IS HOLDING MEETINGS VIRTUALLY WITH LIMITED CAPACITY IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC. HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:**

5:30pm- October 20, 2020 Avian Committee  
Tue, Oct 20, 2020 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CDT)

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**AGENDA**

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

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of meeting minutes from September 1, 2020
- 4) Discussion/Recommendation regarding Christmas Tree Walk
- 5) Discussion/Recommendation regarding Purple Martin Houses
- 6) Discussion/Update regarding Swift Nights Out
- 7) Discussion/Update regarding Learning to Soar Programs
- 8) Grants/Fund Raising Updates
  - a. Environmental Education Foundation (Support the Learning to Soar)

**b.** Cookies for a cause

**c.** WE Energies

9) Discussion regarding possible field trip to Four Seasons Nature Park

10) Discussion/Recommendation regarding Bird City Application

11) Discussion/Recommendation regarding Native Plantings

12) Future Agenda items.

13) Next Meeting Date

14) Adjourn

*This is a meeting of the Avian Committee.  
No official City Council action will be taken; however, a quorum of the Council may be present.*

cc: Tourism Commissioners, Mayor, Administrator

## **Avian Committee**

Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 6:00 P.M.  
Council Chambers

### **Minutes:**

Mayor Charlene Klein popped in to greet the committee and to thank them for all their hard work.

**1. Call to order:** 6:11 P.M. by Alderperson Flower

**2. Roll Call. The following members were present:** Cindy Flower - Alderperson, Carol Zimmermann, Sarah McConnell, Beverly Leonard, Jill Rodriguez, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ. (Alderperson Flowers, Gallo and Rodriguez in the Chamber, all others virtual.) No members of the public participated.

**3. Approval of Avian Committee meeting minutes from July 27, 2020:**

Motion to approve minutes by Zimmermann, second by Rodriguez. The motion was passed.

**4. Purple Martin Colony Update:**

**a.** Leonard, McConnell, Happ and Gallo reported that the martins are all gone for the year. Most of the locations had successful nesting activity, with the exception of the house near the Museum and at Pond View. It was observed that martins prefer living in colonies and houses that were clustered were more successful. The house located at Pond View was relocated. The new gourd houses attracted at least one family.

**b.** Bev Leonard stressed that maintenance is really important and asked that house monitors clean their houses with a diluted bleach solution, then turn the tray to close up for the season. Also remember to lower the houses and remove the perching rods. Leonard will collect the birdsong units. The houses will not be removed for storage this year. Zimmermann requested that house tenders record how many nests, how many birds hatched and fledged and e-mail the results to her so she can compile total numbers.

**c.** Sign purchase. Sarah McConnell reported that a new informational sign is being fabricated and will be shipped to the city's Public Works department to be installed. This sign will be located near the boat and fishing pier. Cost of the sign is \$970.

**5. Learning to Soar Update:**

Carol Zimmermann reported on the Learn to Soar 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum developed for local schools. She is working to move all lessons into virtual content so that as we move further into the school year it will be ready virtually or in person.

**6. Swift Night Out Overview**

The annual Swift Night Out event was changed to a week-long event to accommodate Covid-19 social distancing. Dates are September 6 through September 12 at the Geneva Lake Museum. Promotional materials have been distributed through local partners and sites including the museum, Lake Geneva Library, VisitLakeGeneva, Lakeland Audubon, Geneva Lake Conservancy, the City's Facebook site, Wisconsin Bird City, local school principals at

Eastview, Star and St. Francis (in conjunction with Learning to Soar) and local press. Rodriguez will ask the library to post on their sign, and Leonard will put a yard sign at her store. Flower will put a promotional flyer in each alderperson's box.

Each Committee member has volunteered to serve as host one night during the event, greeting guests from a welcome table, taking count and manning the table to answer questions, etc. from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M.

#### **7. Grants/Fund Raising Updates:**

Zimmermann is working on a grant from the Environmental Educational Foundation for the Learning to Soar curriculum program, and Rodriguez is working on a grant from WE Energies for funds, possibly to be used for new signage. Rodriguez also reported on Cookies for a Cause. The Avian Committee was the recipient of proceeds from cookies sold during the month of August from Simple Bakery. The funds will be used to replace/enhance inventory of the Committee's Birding Kit backpacks that are available through the library. More information on these projects will be available at the October meeting.

#### **8. Budget:**

Alderspersion Flowers reported that a special budget meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24 at 6 P.M. for budget request presentations. Budgets are due to the City by Friday, September 11. Zimmermann will email proposed budget to the committee for review. Please respond to her by September 10. Our 2020 budget was \$4980. Rodriguez commented that we have not spent all our money from last year's budget because of projects that have had to be cancelled/revised. We have spent \$1168 so far this year, with additional \$970 earmarked for the new sign. It was suggested that we ask for what is was left in our 2020 budget for next year. We also hope to enhance our budget from successful grants. Zimmermann and Rodriguez asked to be in attendance at the City's Budget Request Meeting.

It was suggested that instead of our own Grow Native Proposal, we could help build a coalition of groups or team up with partners like the Geneva Lake Conservancy to help with their native plant program. Also we could create a local bird watching map that includes the City's Four Seasons Nature Park. Due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation, we can still take little steps now as we try to move forward with our bigger plans.

#### **9. Museum. Christmas Tree Walk**

Rodriguez reported that we are signed up to participate at the Geneva Lake Museum again this year. Set up will be November 18.

#### **10. Future Agenda Items:**

- a. Christmas Tree Walk
- b. Martin house follow-up
- c. Update Swift Nights Out, Learning to Soar programs
- d. Grant updates – Environmental Education Foundation, Cookies for a Cause, WE Energies
- e. Possible field trip to Four Seasons Nature Park
- f. Bird City Application

**11. Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 6 at 6 P.M.

**12. Adjourn:** McConnell moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15. The motion was seconded by Zimmermann and passed.

Respectfully submitted  
Kelley Happ  
9/9/2020