

AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019 - 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

Chair Proksa called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

**Roll Call:** Present: Selena Proksa, Sarah McConnell, Carol Zimmermann. Excused: Jill Rodriguez, Beverly Leonard, Karen Gallo. Also present: Volunteer Toni Vogel

**Approval of minutes** from March 25, 2019 meeting as distributed  
Motion by Zimmermann, second by McConnell, Motion unanimously approved

**Comments from the public** limited to 5 minutes – no comments

**Discussion/Update of Purple Martin Interpretive Sign Placement and Order**

McConnell has received the sign. She will work with Neil in Public Works to get the sign installed. Placement of the sign has been set – on the lake side of lake path sidewalk – in front of the library.

**Discussion/Update on Avian Education Project**

Zimmermann provided an update (attached).

**World Migratory Bird Day Celebration** (Bird Fair) is **May 7, 9:00 to 11:30** am at the Parish Hall at St. Francis de Sales (Main Street)

Chair Proksa has agreed to be a judge. She also agreed to recognize each student and hand out certificates of participation at 11:00 am. McConnell, Rodriguez, Vogel, and Zimmermann have committed to staff the event. Zimmermann will email other committee members to ask them to staff.

**The City Council will recognize two winners on Monday, May 13, 6:00 pm at City Hall.**

Zimmermann will write talking points for Chair Proksa and the mayor. She will create a PowerPoint presentation. Chair Proksa will brief the Council and Mayor and let the City Clerk know that Zimmermann will come early to help setup the computer for the presentation.

**Discussion/Update Tuesday @ 2 Program at Lake Geneva Museum on 05/14/19**

Rodriguez is the lead. Zimmermann is creating a Committee overview presentation.

Working title: The City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee: Birds Downtown and Around Town

Working outline: Rodriguez – intro

Zimmermann – Committee work overview

Rodriguez - June & July library programs

McConnell – Swift Night Out program in September

Rodriguez – volunteer sign up and wrap up

**Discussion of Purple Martin Houses**

We are having issues with the houses dropping. Cables appear to be coming loose from the crank assembly. These are the new – and much thicker – cables. McConnell has been in touch with Neil and the Public Works folks to find a solution so houses can be raised and lowered easily and safely.

Two new volunteers were trained and a shared folder is set up to enhance communication.

## **Discussion of Tourism/Library Programs**

The two programs scheduled at the Library are:

### **Purple Martin Tiny Houses, Tuesday June 18, 2019 6:30 pm**, Lake Geneva Public Library

Volunteer Toni Vogel has recruited David Drake, Extension Wildlife Professor at UW. There was additional discussion of the need to have his presentation tie in nicely to the publicity that is already out there and to see if vendors of Purple Martin houses and gourds would bring examples for the presentation.

Note: (below is the language Rodriguez forwarded and we are using to publicize the event)

*Join the Lake Geneva Avian Committee and the Lake Geneva Public Library for a special family event. Learn about Purple Martins, a migratory bird that makes the Geneva Lake area their home each summer, and how volunteers are managing the new houses along the lakeshore to give the birds safe and comfortable "homes". Experts will share their knowledge of the various kinds of houses, and how best to attract your own Martin families. Youth ages 6-12 will have a hands-on experience during the presentation.*

### **Wednesday June 19 10:00 am**

*The next morning a walking tour along Library Park will be hands on, as Purple Martin experts will demonstrate how the houses work, including viewing the nests and perhaps even some baby birds. This program is supported by the Lake Geneva Tourism Commission.*

### **Purple Martin House Hunters, At Tuesday July 23, 2019 6:30 pm**, Lake Geneva Public Library

Volunteer Toni Vogel has recruited Belinda Abendsch from the Burlington Garden Center to present.

Note: (below is the language Rodriguez forwarded and we are using to publicize the event)

*The Lake Geneva Avian Committee and the Lake Geneva Public Library are presenting the second in a series of family-oriented programs to encourage Midwesterners to enjoy the benefits and natural beauty of inviting Purple Martins into your neighborhoods. Learn about checking nests, participating in the Purple Martin Association bird banding project and more. Learn from a local expert and author how to Birdscape your property to attract and support local birds.*

### **Wednesday July 24 10:00 am**

*The next morning a walking tour along Library Park will be hands on, as Purple Martin experts will demonstrate how the houses work, including viewing the nests and perhaps even some baby birds. This program is supported by the City of Lake Geneva Tourism Commission*

## **Future Agenda Items**

Purple Martin Houses

Library Programs and tourism grant

Swift Night Out (also tied to tourism grant)

Volunteer recruitment

Budget review

## **Adjourned**

Carol Zimmermann moved and McConnell seconded

Motion approved unanimously

Adjourn 5:36 pm