

AVIAN COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 5:30 PM
City Hall, Conference Room 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall.

Roll Call: Present: Donald Forbes, Alderman Wall, Kate Anderson, Maureen Winkler and three guests from the Public. Absent: None

Election of Chairman and Secretary for the year: Committee Member Mackenzie Bestold had tendered resignation to Chairman Wall. New Committee Member Kate Anderson introduced. Background in Environmental Studies. Volunteer at Kishwaukee. Alderman Wall nominated for Chairman by Ms. Winkler/seconded by Ms. Anderson. Carried unanimously. Ms. Winkler nominated for Secretary by Ald. Wall/seconded by Ms. Anderson. Carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2014: Approval motioned by Alderman Wall, seconded by Don Forbes.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.

Future Blue Bird Project suggested by Pat Parsons. She submitted updated design plans for bluebird nest boxes. Ms. Winkler will copy information and disseminate at next meeting for consideration as future project.

Bird City Wisconsin Summit Report – Don Forbes

Don shared The Power of Partnerships – 1) New ways of sharing efforts to help birds across the State. Bird Cities and Clubs sharing information and stories. (eg: the Warblers prefer native trees w/specific non-cultivars that provide habitat for mites and insects) 2) Festivals put on by Communities to promote birding and habitat. Lists are provided at: <http://www.birdcitywisconsin.org/Resources/Festivals.htm> 3). Don thanked Dan Winkler for his efforts on behalf of the Chimney Swift boxes and the Kestrel box placements.

Swift Bird House Construction Update

Don Forbes informed the Committee that the Swift Birdhouses we have are not conducive to American Chimney Swifts, but only to European (Danish) Chimney Swifts. Maureen Winkler suggested that the boxes might be used for other species and volunteered to ask Bill Mueller if this was possible.

Discussion on American Kestrel Partnership

Don Forbes suggested that the City of Lake Geneva share in efforts with the Kestrel Partnership, as well as other Partnerships, including the Blue Bird and the Monarch Butterfly, which is considered part of the birding habitat by Bird City. “Partnership” as defined with efforts and not money.

Bird City High Flyer Status

New Committee Member Kate Anderson was not sure of the requirements for High Flyer Status, so Secretary Winkler has reprinted them here from the February minutes, along with new notes from the June 19 meeting in bold italics:

“High Flyer” status represents the highest commitment of a community to Bird City Wisconsin. To qualify, a community must meet five of 17 stated requirements showing the community’s utmost commitment to bird conservation.

Category 1: Creation & Protection of Habitat Category:

- 1A. Show how & where the community has restored at least two acres of woodlands, wetlands or prairie. ***Committee proposed that Four Seasons area may qualify for this. Ms. Winkler volunteered to take photos and pass them on to Bill Mueller to inspect. Ms. Anderson mentioned she wanted to do an inventory from her background with Environmental Studies.***
- 1E. Demonstrate the implementation of a program to preserve Chimney Swift roosting sites and/or to contrast alternative Chimney Swift towers. ***Lake Geneva undoubtedly meets this requirement due to its Swift Night Out celebration each September.***
- 1I. Document the fact that the community maintains a birding trail or “hot spot” location with educational signage and/or literature. ***Committee thought that Four Seasons, again, may meet this requirement. Verification from Administrator Jordan is needed. (Wall)***

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. ***Committee discussed in past meetings if it was feasible to purchase window clings and promote them to residents and businesses if they are interested in receiving them. Window clings would need to be purchase. Former Secretary Mackenzie Bestold found them available on www.wihumane.org/wildlife/wings/birdsafebuildings.aspx which would be investigated further. Item should be placed back on the Agenda for resolution one way or another.***
- 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 Hal building would qualify. Recommend further investigation by Ald Wall and Administrator Jordan. ([Registration Page](#)) Should be placed on Agenda for resolution.***

Discussion on Swift Night Out Planning.

- Wednesday, August 13th. Moved from a Thursday to not interfere with Music in the Park. Moved earlier in the summer to not miss the swifts and to get more visitors.
- Ms. Winkler will call Bill Mueller to verify speaking on American Kestrels, since that species may be one of the 2015 Committee goals.
- Alderman Wall to bring cake, plates, forks. Ms. Winkler to bring water and napkins.

Discussion on future agenda and meeting date.

Don Forbes tendered his resignation. He wants to be able to work on birds from the Public end, without worrying who he is emailing or meeting with pursuant to Open Meetings Act. Alderman Wall thanked him for his service.

Future Agenda items:

- New Committee Member
- Swift/Kestrel Bird Houses – update status of bird house placement and use by other species (Winkler)
- 4 Seasons
 - Habitat Inventory (Anderson)
 - Bird House Placement (Winkler)
- Bird City High Flyer status
 - Bird Collision Decal Program (Wall - Verification from City Admin)
 - Verification whether 2014 High Flyer goals reached (Wall- Verif. from City Admin)
- 2014 Swift Night Out Final Planning
 - Speaker
 - Timing: Public Arrival/Speaker/Refreshments/Viewing
 - Refreshment Procurement Verification (Wall/Winkler)

- Flyer/City Website/LGCVB (Winkler/Wall)
- 2015 Goal Exploration
 - Partnerships: Kestrel/ Blue Bird/Monarch Butterfly (Winkler/Forbes)
 - 2015 Swift Night Out
 - 4 Seasons Habitat

Next meeting: Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

Winkler/Anderson motion to adjourn at 6:25 PM. Carried unanimously.

Maureen Winkler, Secretary 7/22/14