

AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JULY 22, 2019
5:00 PM
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A
Minutes

Members: Chairperson Selena Proksa, Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Carol Zimmermann, Karen Gallo

1. Call to order by Chairman, Selena Proksa 5:00 pm

2. Roll Call Present: Chairperson Selena Proksa, Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Jill Rodriguez, Carol Zimmermann.

NOTE: Zimmermann is still misspelled on the agenda and the website (2 n's at the end)

3. Approval of minutes from June 10, 2019 meeting as distributed
Moved by Zimmermann, Seconded by McConnell. Unanimously approved

4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes

Kelly Happ, 1120 S Lake shore drive unit 13 – Interested in volunteering for the open seat on the Committee. Has put her application in. Has worked with the Committee on the Educational Pilot and brings skill sets to the group – such as avian photography and writing media releases.

Dick Mellman, N1191 S lakeshore drive – Presented a map of possible recreational/natural area use for the Hillmore property – developed as a landscape architect and through a visioning session on the property. Noted that this would be consistent with the work of the Avian Committee. Emphasized this property as a hub for econ-tourism and bird watching.

Mary Jo Fesenmeier, 1085 S Lake Shore Drive – Educator at Eastview. Also spoke to the Hillmore property. Urged committee members to attend the public workshops and meetings on the City's strategic plan. Indicated that public discussion was needed as no public survey was conducted prior to the strategic planning session. Presented comments collected as part of the Save Hillmore group's efforts(120 responses). Urged the committee to support retaining the current zoning for the Hillmore property. Asserted that this would allow for siting the YMCA and provide a natural area that was important for students and adults to learn about and enjoy activities such as bird-watching.

5. Discussion/Recommendation Gourds and Rack investment for this year's expenditure; install spring 2020

Leonard presented the aggregate cost of an 18-gourd, 3-inch diameter pole - \$952.76. Discussion: Concern about the width (diameter) of the gourd structure and if that would pose any issues for City work vehicles. Leonard will follow-up with the Street Department and report the outcome at the next meeting.

6. Discussion/Recommendation Dummy sparrow egg investment for future use
Leonard reported finding a source for low-cost dummy sparrow eggs.

Discussion: Research indicates eggs need to have the same color pattern as real sparrow eggs. This may require finding a vendor that laser prints the dummy eggs. Leonard will follow-up and report the outcome at the next meeting.

7. Discussion/Update Contact Dick Nikoli regarding his need to follow up with banded birds
Both Leonard and McConnell have attempted to contact Nikoli. This is not necessarily a yearly project for us. We may be too late in the birds' development to do this for the babies this year.

8. Discussion/Update on July 23 Avian program/event

Tuesday Event

Rodriguez will introduce speaker. McConnell and Zimmermann will present a PowerPoint after the program about the Purple Martin colony and to invite participants to the Wednesday walk and Swift Night Out.

Committee members should be at the Library lobby at 9:45 am.

Rodriguez will set up refreshments and have the library set up a kids' table.

McConnell has prepared a children's activity.

McConnell and Gallo will lead the children's craft project.

Zimmermann will update the PowerPoint and print rack cards for Swift Night Out.

Happ will photograph the event.

Members should come at 6:00 pm to assist in setup.

Wednesday Event

Rodriguez cannot lead event, so McConnell, Gallo, and Zimmermann will present.

Rodriguez will bring Purple Martin handouts and binoculars on Tuesday for Wednesday.

McConnell will lead the walk and will either demonstrate the houses or describe and help participants use binoculars to view the birds – if the birds are too close to fledging.

9. Discussion/Update Permit for Swift Night Out

McConnell reported that – with the assistance of the Museum and city staff – the food truck application is complete. She presented models of toy bird houses for the children's program. She also reported that in addition to hot dogs and ice cream, Oak Fire may also bring the mobile pizza oven. Zimmermann provided various information sheets and images to the Committee (shared folder) and to the Museum. The Museum is already promoting the event.

10. Discussion/Recommendation of Future Agenda Items

- Alliant Energy Bird Watching kits – updates, maps & tags, possible launch events
- Swift Night Out – updates and needed activities
- Learning to Soar – update
- Meeting with Tree Commit
- Purple Martin Colony - possible purchases for 2020 (Gourds, dummy eggs, cables, etc.) & research and documentation/photographs of 2019 colony
- Street Department thank you
- Financial review

11. Next Meeting: Monday, August 26, 2019 @ 5:00 PM

12. Adjourn 5:50 pm – moved by Rodriguez, second by Zimmermann, approved unanimously