



AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 – 5:00 PM
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2C

1. Call to order by Nancy Swanson
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes from August 27, 2018 meeting as distributed
4. Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes
5. Discussion/Action on Avian Committee Goal Setting for 2019
6. Discussion/Action on Avian Committee Grant Writing for 2019
7. Discussion/Recommendation of future agenda items
8. Adjourn

This is a meeting of the Avian Committee.

No official Council action will be taken; however, a quorum of the Council may be present.

9/5/2018 3:00 pm

cc: Aldermen, Mayor, Administrator, Media

**AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018 – 5:00 PM CITY HALL,
CONFERENCE ROOM 2A**

Call to order by Nancy Swanson at 5:04 pm

Roll Call: Present, Swanson, Acting Chair; McConnell; Rodriguez

Absent: Proska, Leonard

Also Present: Mayor Hartz; Jill Lorenzi, volunteer; Carol Zimmermann, volunteer

Approval of minutes

Approval of minutes from June 11 meeting: Motioned by Swanson, second by Sarah

Motion Approved Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Approval of minutes from July 30: Motion by Rodriguez, second by Swanson

Motion Approved Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Comments from the public

Carol Zimmermann provided written and oral updates on Purple Martin presentation at the August meeting of the Geneva Lake Association, drafting and printing of the Swift Night Out bi-fold, drafting of one-page flyer for Swift Night Out for electronic distribution, copy flyers distributed to Simple Bakery for the Cookie for a Cause event, a request to the Committee to support an Avian citizen scientist elementary school pilot and offered a private donation to support, and an offer to facilitate a strategic planning/goal clarification meeting.

Jill Lorenzi spoke in support of the elementary education pilot program and offered to volunteer as a pilot classroom. She has successfully applied for, been awarded, and implemented outdoor education grant programs. Her 5th grade at St. Francis has 18 students.

Mayor Hartz reported that he had found a Bird City Flag (and also a Tree City Flag) and was working to display the flags on the poles in front of City Hall.

Discussion/Action on Purple Martin Project

Signage: McConnell presented an estimate for a Purple Martin sign from Pulse Design. Durable sign with a pedestal and shipping would be \$910. For no additional cost, the company will add a line to credit donors.

McConnell suggested that the budget request reflect the cost of this sign and small identifying signs at the remainder of the houses. She also suggested that no permanent sign mapping the location of the houses be purchased until/unless the committee is certain that the houses will not be moved. Rodriguez suggested that temporary mapping signs could be posted in public locations, such as the library.

Motion that the sign cost be included in the budget request by Swanson, second by Rodriguez

Motion Approved: Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Street Department and end of season activities: Swanson reported that the Street Department will take down the houses, probably in October. Swanson will find out the date they will come down, if hoses can be available for the Committee and volunteers to wash the houses on site, and will ask the Street Department to also take down and store the Purple Martin audio player. Discussion about the need to schedule a work day to clean the houses prior to winter storage.

Goals for next season – add Gourds to one house

Rodriquez estimated that one three-prong gourd support structure and three gourds would cost roughly \$150, without shipping and any potential needed hardware.

Motion that the cost of the structure and gourds be included in the budget request, not to exceed \$200 by McConnell, second by Swanson

Motion Approved Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Note from Swanson that volunteers should send observation sheets by the end of September.

Discussion/Action on Avian Committee Education and Events

Lake Geneva Bird City Website: Status of this was not known. Rodriquez will check with city website staff to see if this information can be added to the current website.

Education Pilot Program: Motion by Rodrigues that an education subcommittee/working group be formed to gather information and present ideas to the committee on a curriculum for a pilot program in elementary school, and that Rodriquez, McConnell, and volunteers Lorenzi and Zimmermann would constitute the core of the group, but should also attempt to recruit one or two other elementary educators, second by McConnell. Zimmermann will work with the group to schedule a meeting.

Motion Approved Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Library Programs: Rodriquez suggested that the Library program be delayed until spring and be an extension of the educational pilot program.

Swift Night Out on September 13, 2018: Rodriquez will take bi-folds to the Museum for event promotion and meet with Museum staff to make sure all is in order for the event.

Rodriquez will buy cookies and water for refreshments.

Mayor Hartz indicated that if the Committee could get an expected count, that Purple Martin (Cookies for a Cause) might be a donation possibility.

McConnell noted that she has contacted the speaker, Dick Nicola, and offer her home as accommodations for he and his wife. She also noted committee members and volunteers should arrive shortly before the event and assist the Museum staff in opening the back door after the indoor program. Zimmermann will forward a pdf copy of the flyer to all committee members and volunteers.

Discussion/Action on Fund Raising

GoFundMe and Account Balance: Rodriquez reported that there have been two donations to go fund me, and the account now has \$667

Cookies for a Cause - Simple Bakery: The Committee thanks the Mayor for this fund raiser.

The Mayor noted that the Purple Martin Cookies have sold better than any other cookie.

Simple is also set to repeat this fund-raiser in July 2019.

Alliant Energy Grant: Deferred until the next meeting and application deferred until the winter grant cycle.

Tourism Grant: Deferred until the next meeting.

Discussion/Action on 2019 City Budget – Hearing on September 27, 2018, 6:00 pm:

Rodrigues will be the point person for the budget drafting and budget testimony.

Mayor Hartz will send a copy of the budget process to her. Rodriquez will meet with Karen Hall

See notes on budget requests under “**Discussion/Action on Purple Martin Project**” above.

Prior to finalizing the budget requests and to assist in grant writing, McConnell noted the need for a strategic planning/goal clarification session.

Motion by McConnell to hold a strategic planning session September 17, 2018 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room at City Hall, second by Rodriquez.

Motion Approved Yes (3), No (0), Abstain (0)

Follow up: McConnell will follow-up with the City Clerk, Lana Kropf, to post the meeting and to schedule the room.

Discussion/Recommendation of future agenda items

Swift Night Out report

Bird City Application – Swanson is point person

Purple Martin end of season tasks and work day

Budget request: Finalize and budget presentation outline

Strategic Planning meeting outcomes (meeting on September 17)

Tourism grant – discussion of public and private partners

Alliant Energy grant – preparation for winter cycle

Education Programing (add as regular item) - Pilot update for Sept.

Status of Ordinance change to increase Committee membership to 7

Next meeting: Monday, September 24, 5:00 pm

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 5:57 pm by Rodriquez, second by Swanson. Motion carried 3-0.

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE AVIAN
COMMITTEE**

8/31/2018 4:00 pm

cc: Aldermen, Mayor, Administrator, Media