



## AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019 – 5:00 PM**

**CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A**

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

1. Call to order by Chairman, Selena Proksa
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of minutes from October 28, 2019 meeting as distributed
4. Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), limited to items on this agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes
5. Discussion/Update 2019 and 2020 Avian Budget
6. Discussion/Update Bird City Application
7. Presentation/Introduction by Stephanie Klett, Visit Lake Geneva
8. Discussion/Update Purple Martin Colony
9. Discussion/Recommendation 2020 Swift Night Out
10. Discussion/Update 2020 Possible Grant Opportunities
11. Discussion/Update Avian Christmas Tree – Geneva Lake Museum Parade of Trees
12. Discussion/Update 2020 Avian Education Project
13. Discussion/Update 2020 Avian Backyard Bird-Friendly Initiative
14. Future Agenda Items
15. Next Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
16. 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.*

cc: Aldermen, Mayor, Administrator, Media

**AVIAN (BIRD) COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2019 – 5:00 PM CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A**

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

1. Call to order by Chairman, Selena Proksa 5:00 pm
2. Roll Call – present Chairperson Selena Proksa, Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, , Carol Zimmermann, Karen Gallo, Kelley Happ; Excused: Jill Rodriguez
3. Approval of minutes from September 09, 2019 meeting as distributed  
Moved by Zimmermann with the note that the date for this meeting was incorrect. Seconded by Leonard, unanimously approved.
4. Comments from the public as allowed by Wis. Stats. §19.84(2), limited to items on this agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes  
Volunteers Nancy Wolff and Nancy Swanson noted that volunteering with the Purple Martins was rewarding and they will volunteer again
5. Discussion/Recommendation Thank you to volunteer nest keepers:  
Nancy Swanson and Nancy Wolff. Many thanks to our volunteers!
6. Discussion/Update Thank you lunch for Public Works – 11/29/19  
This was a good event and the street department workers appeared to be interested in the progress of the colony and pleased with the recognition of their contributions.
7. Discussion/Update 2019 and 2020 Avian Budget  
Tourism money will be moving from their budget to ours.  
Cookies for a Cause – raised about \$400.  
Will know about our budget figures in December.  
Zimmermann will put together a Google sheet budget so Committee members can enter invoice amounts as those are encumbered. Proksa will work the Comptroller to get quarterly updates so we can reconcile the working budget with the official one.
8. Discussion/Update Bird City Application
  1. Working Group – Zimmermann, Happ, & McConnell (as available/needed)
  2. Activating the Account – Proksa will contact City Administrator Dave Nord to set up a time for him to meet with the working group – either 6<sup>th</sup> (morning) or the 14<sup>th</sup> (late afternoon)
  3. Coordinating with Tree Committee – expanded to also include the City Arborist and perhaps a representative from Public Works – Proksa will work on coordinating and scheduling a special joint meeting of the Tree and Avian Committees (with other guests – Arborist/Public Works)
4. Resolution for World Migratory Bird Day – must be passed by Council (December meeting for vote) – Zimmermann emailed and posted to Google Drive – Committee members should review and suggest any edits. Will take to meeting with Nord.

5. Review Application renewal with Committee – January meeting – prior to Jan 31 deadline.  
6. Get on Administrator's, David Nord, calendar for processes, payment, resolution, uploading – see note #2.

9. Discussion/Recommendation Work projects for Purple Martin Colony (cleaning, gourds, replacement cables, etc.)  
Cleaned out, gourd base has been poured, repour fishing and possibly boat pier house bases, replacing cables with Neil before spring.

10. Discussion/Recommendation 2020 Swift Night Out -  
Rapture program Schutz Audubon Center (traveling) will bring raptures.  
Cost: \$325 plus travel (\$25), Eagle is extra - bumps up to \$400  
Linked to tourism – promotion  
Penciled in on their calendar  
September 10 – Thursday, Checked with Museum on date and raptor program  
Committee will do short program on Swifts  
Food trucks and carts (have experience now with the approval process)  
Committee members asked to think about possible food truck or food cart operators – report options to McConnel. These may include volunteer organization trucks or carts.

Motion by Proksa to move item 14 up on the agenda after item 10.  
Moved by Proksa second by Happ – unanimously approved

14. Discussion/Recommendation Lake Geneva bird-friendly sustainable landscaping  
Presentation by Alderperson Flowers. See agenda packet.  
Stressed the value of native species for birds and other pollinators.  
Met with representative of Northwinds Perennials about increasing native species planting. Also possible to lower maintenance costs in some areas.  
Current good example: Library  
Other possible areas: Gateways into the community, Disc Golf Course (but some issues there & low public visibility), 120 boulevard, along Highway 50 around the Sailboats, others possible.  
Discussion and link to action items for 2020  
Find ways to integrate this into the Committee's plan for a Bird Friendly Yard contest.  
Area of interest to both the Alderperson and the Committee members for public planting:  
Museum (in front of pond) – high public visibility, currently difficult to maintain, Purple Martin house there, could link to Tuesdays @ 2 – build on Avian Committee – Museum strategic partnership.

Resources noted: Audubon has signs to recognize Bird Friendly Yard or area (\$25) donation for each sign. Audubon has material for the public on planting for birds.  
Need to continue this discussion – strategic planning item in January meeting.

11. Discussion/Update Final report for Tourism Grant match complete – Turned in receipts for \$2215.47 – see item #7

12. Discussion/Update Cookies for a Cause check lost and being reissued. Check was approximately \$400 – see item #7

13. Discussion/Update

Notes and future meetings

**November 20** - Avian Christmas Tree – Geneva Lake Museum Parade of Trees decorating

- 1) Jill Rodriguez purchasing tree
- 2) 2. Please buy/donate inexpensive bird ornaments
- 3) Kids at library are decorating birdhouses for Avian tree from leftover Swift Night Out houses

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 25, 2019 @ 5:00 PM**

17. Adjourn

Moved by Zimmermann, Second by McConnell, approved unanimously

Adjourned – 5:57 pm

### **Future Agenda Items**

Bird City Application

Special joint meeting with Tree Committee and guests (Arborist, Public Works, Anyone else who can assist with or have missions complementary with Bird City goals)

World Migratory Bird Day Resolution

Discussion of strategic priorities for 2020 – including:

- Bird Friendly Yard Competition
- Swift Night Out

**CITY OF LAKE GENEVA AVIAN COMMITTEE**

**Summary of Funds - 2019**

Balance Carryforward - 12/31/18	442.80
Donations - 2019*	2,771.99
Donations - Cookies for a Cause - not yet received	417.50
Expenditures (remainder of \$5,000 budget; spent \$4,948.70)	<u>51.30</u>
Balance Available as of 11/18/19	<u><u>3,683.59</u></u>

\*Includes:

Alliant Grant	1,572.00
Tourism Grant	1,107.74
Other Donations	<u>92.25</u>
	<u><u>2,771.99</u></u>