

**AVIAN COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 – 5:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, MEETING ROOM 2A**

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Horne at 5:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Horne, Beverly Leonard, Sarah McConnell, Nikki Scott, and Bob Nordhaus. Also Present: City Administrator Oborn and Alderman Gelting.

**Approval of Public Works Committee meeting minutes from October 6, 2015 as prepared and distributed**  
Horne/Leonard motion to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.** None.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Bird City Lake Geneva Designation**

Mr. Oborn stated Lake Geneva is not just a Bird City; we also have the High Flyer designation. The City adopted a general plan on December 14, 2009. He is going to work with the Lake Geneva Conservancy to purchase property on the White River Trail. The land is owned by 120 Properties LLC. He said we get the statuses because of our Tree City status. Mr. Oborn went over the criteria to obtain the Bird City designation and how the City of Lake Geneva qualifies. The application has to be done by January 31, 2017, and there is a \$125.00 fee. Ms. Leonard and Ms. Scott volunteered to help with the application. Mr. Horne said he would assist if he was available.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Swift Night Out held September 15, 2016 at the Geneva Lake Museum and next year's event**

Mr. Oborn said the turnout was low, but the information was great and they saw a lot of swifts. Mr. Horne asked how the event was promoted. Mr. Oborn noted it was word of mouth. Ms. Leonard suggested reaching out to the Museum. Mr. Oborn could put an article in the newspaper for future events. The swifts run in August and September, and it is hit or miss. Ms. McConnell suggested having next year's program after school starts so it can be promoted at the schools. Mr. Oborn said it will be targeted for mid-September. The committee will contact the museum to set a date as well as try to get a speaker for the event.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Avian Committee website improvement**

Mr. Horne questioned if the high school does anything regarding programming or web design. Mr. Oborn said that is part of the education for the Bird City designation, so he would like people to check out the website and get educated. Mr. Horne suggested everyone take a look at the website and come up with ideas for the next meeting.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Google Map Bird Location**

Mr. Oborn explained this is a left over project from the previous committee. He said there is data he can get regarding this.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Bat (and possibly Bluebird) House Student Project (combined with item 11)**

Mr. Oborn said there has been work with the schools in the past. The City then installs the houses. Ms. Leonard stated we have lost so many Purple Martins. She would like this committee to take on bringing the population back. We have lost 75% of the population. They do really well in a habitat built by man. She had contacted Badger High School to see if they would like to take on the building of the houses, but has not received a response. She noted that a nice one selling at a retail store would be about \$150. Mr. Horne suggested asking residents to sponsor by allowing a house to be installed on their property. He suggested the committee do research on what the price would be for the houses and report back at the next meeting.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Bird City Decal Sales with suggestions for Sales improvement**

Mr. Oborn will look at getting the stickers printed so they can be on the inside of a window rather than the outside. They are sold at City Hall and the Swift Night Out event. Mr. Horne asked if they can be sold at businesses in the area. Mr. Oborn said he didn't see why not. It was suggested to tie the sales of these into the purple martin project. Mr. Oborn said he could speak with the Library to see if they could be sold there as well.

**Discussion/Recommendation/Action on Purple Martin Bird Housing (*combined with item 9*)**

This item was combined with the discussion on bat (and possibly Bluebird) house student project.

**Discussion/Recommendation on other new project suggestions**

Ms. Leonard stated the lack of insects and spraying for insects is hurting the bird population. It costs the City quite a bit of money to spray for mosquitoes. She suggested not spraying for them. Ms. McConnell said it was found that spraying is actually not that effective. The better approach is getting rid of standing water. Mr. Oborn noted there is a process of notice when the spraying is done. It was questioned if this is a necessary service. Mr. Oborn suggested bringing this back as a future agenda item, and he can do some research. There was also discussion on bat houses within the City.

**Discussion/Recommendation of future agenda items and date for next meeting**

The committee will discuss mosquito spraying alternatives and potential bat houses.

**Adjournment.**

Leonard/Scott motion to adjourn at 6:07pm. Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Stephanie Gunderson, Assistant City Clerk

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