

AVIAN COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012 AT 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 6:10 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Alderman Wall, Mackenzie Bestold and Donald Forbes. Others in attendance: Mayor Connors, Administrator Jordan and Carl Schwartz of Bird City Wisconsin.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes. None.

Committee Introduction

Committee members gave brief introductions of themselves.

Discussion on Bird City Wisconsin

Carl Schwartz from Bird City Wisconsin talked about the history and purpose of Bird City Wisconsin. There are 54 communities with the Bird City designation, which includes Lake Geneva. Mr. Schwartz said the program has been successful for raising awareness about conservation efforts.

Administrator Jordan said the City has gotten off to a slow start with its Bird City efforts. He said we obtained the designation and established an Avian Committee. However, the Committee has not met until now because they did not have enough members to make a quorum.

Chairman Wall asked about the criteria for the Bird City Wisconsin designation. Mr. Schwartz said communities need to meet seven criteria of 22 criteria from five categories. He said communities can meet more criteria to attain the "higher flyer" level. Administrator Jordan said the City should be able to meet the higher flyer level in the future.

Discussion on International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)

Administrator Jordan said there was interest in organizing an International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) event in September or October to take place during a chimney swift roost at the museum. Mr. Schwartz discussed chimney swifts and their roosting habits in Wisconsin. He talked about communities like Green Bay and Shorewood that are holding chimney swift watches in August. Mr. Schwartz talked about the Bird City Wisconsin website at www.birdcitywisconsin.org, which lists all of the bird watching events around Wisconsin. He said that most chimney swift roosts hit their peak by the end of September. He said he would get Administrator Jordan in contact with Bill Miller who could discuss good dates for holding a chimney swift watching event. Mayor Connors suggested the IMBD event be scheduled on a Saturday in September, prior to Oktoberfest. Administrator Jordan said he would talk to people from the museum about scheduling a date.

Discussion on future agenda items

Administrator Jordan suggested talking about promoting bird watching at Four Seasons Park. Mayor Connors said they could also discuss bird watching at Big Foot Beach.

Discussion on future meeting dates

The Committee agreed to meet next on Tuesday, August 28th at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

Bestold/Wall motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.

/s/ Michael Hawes, City Clerk

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BY THE AVIAN COMMITTEE**