

THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 23, 2018

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Resource Centre, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Diane Lepage

Directors and Ex Officio Members Present: Annie Bélair, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Henry Steger, Jakob Mueller, Diane Kitching, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Eleanor Zurbrigg, Jeff Saarela, Ken Young, Lynn Ovenden

Directors Absent: Ann MacKenzie, Anouk Hoedeman, Catherine Hessian, Owen Clarkin

1. Minutes of the March 2018 Meeting

Moved by Fenja Brodo, seconded by Gord Robertson, that the March 2018 minutes be accepted.

CARRIED

2. Business arising from minutes

- a) NatureSketch Program. Dilhari Fernando, Maria Buehl, Natasha and Rachelle Lapensée attended. They explained this new program of the Robert Bateman Foundation and would like to collaborate with OFNC on nature drawing. The program this spring consists of 5 Saturday afternoon outdoor nature - drawing classes for children plus a sixth session to exhibit the drawings to families. They would like to offer the June 9 class and the final exhibit on June 16 at FWG. After their presentation, Directors discussed this and other requests for use of the Resource Centre for non-OFNC events (item 6b). Directors reaffirmed that any group given access to the RC must have its own liability insurance. (Dilhari needed to learn if the NatureSketch program had such coverage from the R.Bateman Foundation.) There was general agreement that a NatureSketch art exhibit on June 16 was not an appropriate use of the RC; however, on June 9, someone could be at the RC in case the outdoor class needs access to the toilet.

Moved by Diane Kitching, seconded by Lynn, that the NatureSketch program on Saturday afternoon, June 9, have access to the toilet in the RC, and to the meeting room if it's raining; this, dependent on provision of a copy of their certificate of insurance.

CARRIED (6 for, 1 against, 2 abstentions)

b) New Canadians

Diane and the Ottawa Community Immigrant Settlement Organization (OCICO) have talked again. The event could be about 2 hours, on Sept 15 or 16, for up to 20 people, possibly bird-watching at a park beside the Ottawa River. Directors suggested the focus broaden to general natural history and not require use of binoculars. OCICO will provide vehicles and translators. Suman will meet with a few directors to plan the event. An OCICO rep, Bonnie, will meet with the sub-committee to discuss further. It will be brought to the Board of Directors attention on June 18 meeting.

3. Communications

4. Treasurer's Report

5. Issues for Discussion / Decision

a) Wild Bird Care Centre and Junior Avian Ambassadors.

The Wild Bird Care Centre asked if OFNC would provide funds to support its new educational programs. Directors recall that OFNC provided funds to the Wild Bird Care Centre in 2017 and continue to appreciate its work. However, directors are wary of the many recent requests to support programs outside the OFNC and will not support this current request.

b) Requests for use of the FWG Resource Centre (RC) and Requests for funds.

Ted requested clarification on behalf of Sandy Garland who receives numerous inquiries from nature or environmental groups wanting to use the RC or FWG property. The policy statement crafted last fall is insufficient to guide how she should answer these requests. Directors reaffirmed that the group must have its own liability insurance. They want to decline requests for access by large groups of children owing to a concern about safety of a single exit. Jakob, Ted and Lynn will draft an addition to the policy statement.

As President, Diane receives many requests that OFNC donate funds.

Moved by Henry Steger, seconded by Ken Young, that Directors authorize the President to refuse requests for funds.

CARRIED

c) Innis Point Bird Observatory

On April 5, Bob Cermak met with Bill Petrie, Chair, Innis Point Bird Observatory, to discuss IPBO's request for \$4500 to contract this year's bander-in-charge. IPBO declined Bob's suggestion that IPBO and OFNC explore a more collaborative relationship. By email vote over the past 2 weeks, most Directors supported donating \$4500 to IPBO to contract this year's bander-in-charge and require in return a report for publication in T&L on this year's banding program with statistics and information on what they do. Celia Bonder of IPBO has offered to host an OFNC outing during the spring banding. Diane will write to IPBO about OFNC's donation and the required report, authorize the \$4500 donation, and suggest that IPBO ask the Events Committee to advertise IPBO events.

d) Monarch Project

The Canadian Wildlife Federation, with Holly Bickerton, is applying for funds for a 3 years project to build expertise and conservation partnerships with utility companies and municipalities, to restore meadow habitat for monarch butterfly and other pollinators. Carolyn Callaghan requested OFNC in-kind support for the project, namely collecting wildflower seed each fall. Directors agreed to this support. Events Committee will include the seed-collecting events in OFNC's activity program.

6. Committee Updates

a) Birds

Members of Birds committee will help establish a birding trail on Libby Island in North Grenville. The bird feeder in the woods at Mer Bleue will be moved to the Nepean Sportsplex. CPAWS is sponsoring a clean-up at Mud Lake; members participating in it have requested funds for a barbecue lunch.

Moved by Bob Cermak, seconded by Ted Farnworth that OFNC contribute \$400 for a barbecue lunch for volunteers at the Mud Lake clean-up.

LOST (3 for, 7 against)

b) Education and Publicity

The committee will meet this week. Elizabeth Moore-Wray will coordinate the application process for OFNC's sponsorship to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit. OFNC's display was brought to two Earth Day events, namely Councilor Riley Brockington's event at the Huntclub-Riverside South Community Centre and the Wild Bird Care Centre's open house. The committee will host a Jane's Walk at FWG on May 6.

c) Events

The committee met last week.

Moved by Jakob Mueller, seconded by Gord Robertson, to recognize Elizabeth Robson Gordon as a member of Events Committee.

CARRIED

d) Fletcher Wildlife Garden

About 35 volunteers attended the Spring Fling (potluck luncheon) yesterday. Ted has received inquiries from 33 potential new volunteers, mostly from Volunteer Ottawa. An arborist removed two black locust trees from the Backyard Garden.

e) Ontario Nature

Gord and Diane attended the regional meeting on April 21 at Frontenac Park. A link to a petition about protection of 17% of Ontario and Canada, is on OFNC's website. The Vankleek Hill Nature Society requests support regarding a cement plant; Gord will provide information to directors.

f) Publications

Several boxes of old CFN issues are to be shredded at an estimated cost of \$320.

7. **Motion** to adjourn, by Diane Kitching, **CARRIED**

Recording Secretary: Lynn Ovenden

Upcoming Meeting Dates

May 14, 2018

June 18, 2018

Diane Lepage
President
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date

Lynn Ovenden
Recording Secretary
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Date