

GBAC BOARD MAY MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2022

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Tyler Coleman, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Lienen, Jo Monday, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimmingham, Julie Massey, chapter sponsor. Also present were James Malzahn, Class Rep Alternate, and Sharon Tirpak.

A quorum was established with 84.5% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 6:30 p.m. Pam welcomed guest, Sharon Tirpak.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the June meeting that had been emailed previously to the Board were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Patty to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam noted that the chapter's Disaster Response Plan for 2022 had been circulated to the Board. Each Board Member had been assigned a section of the chapter directory and asked to canvas every chapter member following a potentially catastrophic weather event, effectively implementing a chapter-wide welfare check. Patty called the Board's attention to the wording of the suggested email inquiry. Patty proposed that the inquiry might be worded as, "I hope that you are secure and comfortable with your situation, but if you need assistance, please let me know." Mike made the motion to accept the 2022 Disaster Response Plan as outlined, and Patty provided the second. The motion unanimously passed. Pam mentioned that she had pulled the notes for the Disaster Response Plan from the chapter's archives held in Google Docs. She asked Meade if she would please send a link to everyone on the Board so they could access and review the DRP folder.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pam reported that the GBAC would probably accept the challenge to manage the Silent Auction event at the TMN Annual Meeting, to be held at the Omni Hotel in Houston from Thursday, October 20th through Sunday, October 23rd. The Silent Auction is a fund-raiser to help cover honorariums and various other costs associated with keynote speakers and presenters. The chapter sponsoring the auction keeps 20% of funds raised to be applied to master naturalist programs. The state provides the tools such as tables, cash box, and a Square Up account for collecting credit card receipts. State would help market the auction and send out mailings to the members. Our chapter would be responsible for crafting a message for potential sponsors, donors and businesses to solicit items for the auction. State would provide a software that we would use to track the bids, items, and bid winners. The Silent Auction would represent an intensive volunteer project during the convention and would depend

upon an active committee leading up to the event. Pam mentioned that Chris Anastas felt positive about the opportunity and that it would be beneficial for our chapter to take the lead. Discussion ensued with a general consensus that the Silent Auction was a worthwhile challenge for the chapter.

Next, Pam reported that the Bay Side Park committee was happy to move forward as the proposed Chapter Project to be presented at the TMN Annual Meeting.

As for future events, Pam asked Julie to discuss the Fall Festival, scheduled for Saturday, October 8th from 9 am to 1 pm at Carbide Park. The festival would highlight organizations housed at the Agri-Life Extension offices, such as Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, 4H Clubs, etc.. Julie explained that she was hoping that GBAC would host several booths with activities including the Wingspan game, seedballs, fish prints, sea turtle TED demos, etc..

Pam mentioned that the August Chapter Meeting would be held on Thursday, August 4th and would be conducted similarly to the hybrid June meeting. The Board will meet in August in person or by Zoom on Tuesday, the 2nd at 1:00 pm, a rehearsal for the chapter meeting will follow immediately thereafter.

Finally, Pam reported that at the recent Presidents Meeting, she had observed a presentation on SLACK, a messaging program, similar to a bulletin board, designed for workplaces and collaborations. The Coastal Prairie chapter uses it extensively, and State has begun to use it. Pam suggested that GBAC set up a demo account so that board members could try it. Online tutorials are available at <https://slack.com>. Discussion ensued, and the general consensus was for the Board to experiment with it before issuing a chapter-wide invitation to join.

BOARD REPORTS:

President (Pam House)

The VMS Tuesday is scheduled for July 12th, and the topic will be “Authentic Leadership in Public Service.” Dr. Kenneth Taylor will be leading. This will be a presentation that can be viewed after the fact for AT credit. The link is available on the State website.

Vice President (Tyler Coleman)

Tyler reported that Kristen Vale, the Texas Coastal Program Coordinator of the American Bird Conservancy, will be the guest speaker for the August chapter meeting. She will be discussing data that the ABC has been collecting in and around Galveston County.

Secretary (Cynthia Hughes)

Cynthia thanked the board members present who volunteered at Camp Wild 2022. She also thanked GBAC for the generous donation to the Friends of Galveston Island State Park.

Treasurer (Cindy Liening)

Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Jo to accept the June financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty reported that 99 members had recertified so far in 2022. One person had transferred in from the Cradle of Texas chapter, and 14 members of the 2022 class had already re-certified. Patty was particularly pleased that Impacts for June were almost double those for May, and it was largely due to Camp Wild and Beach Heroes programs. Patty is researching methods for members to make annual dues online, and asked about the possibility of using perpetual Hold Harmless Agreements in the future to reduce paperwork. Discussion ensued regarding the most cost-effective methods to accept payments online.

Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)

Mike mentioned the following upcoming Advance Training opportunities:

On July 26th, Laurie Gonzales will present “War of the Worlds: Insects Vs. Alien Invaders”

On August 31st, “The Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge at Phil Hardberger Park in San Antonio” will be presented by Chuck Sasser.

On September 20th, “The Texas Coastal Exchange, 1000 Miles of Living Shoreline Project” will be presented by Jim Blackburn. Mike remarked that this presentation might be of interest to other TMN chapters along the Gulf Coast and perhaps state-wide. Julie commented that sharing AT’s with other chapters could expand the GBAC’s impact in education and would be a meaningful service to other TMN chapters and to the public.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammad Nasrullah)

As Mohammad had a conflicting meeting and was unable to attend, Pam reported that the next presentation in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion series would take place on Tuesday, July 12th at 6 pm. Advance registration would be required for “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Action,” presented by Dr. Eboni Preston Goddard, PhD, Associate Director and National Park Service Diversity Lead for the National Parks Conservation Association.

New Class Training (Pam House for Gene Fisseler)

The dates of the 2022 Fall Class will be held on Thursday evenings from August 25th through October 27th with three Saturday field trips planned for September and October. They have most of the class topics and speakers lined up. The

Committee has a working list of almost 60 trainee candidates, and they will be distributing the applications very soon. The Meet & Greet will be held on July 28th.

Communications (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade was pleased to report that she is working with Rene Gedaly from the 2022 class, and Rene is reporting regularly on her first year as a master naturalist. The first email has gone out regarding the 2022 Photo Contest, and she is looking for a couple of new judges for the competition. Meade will also encourage the Scrapbook Committee to be ready to submit the Chapter's scrapbook at the Annual Meeting in October.

Chapter Sponsor (Julie Massey)

Julie thanked everyone who has worked with and encouraged her summer interns.

She also reported her concerns that the Consortium for Ocean Leadership that has previously provided funding for the Dolphin Challenge Quiz Bowl is about to be dissolved, and so the future of the Quiz Bowl is in jeopardy. They are hoping to find another home for the competition, but she is certain that Quiz Bowl will not be conducted in 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes