

GBAC BOARD MAY MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2022

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Lisa Hardcastle, Ellen Gerloff, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Jo Monday, Mohammad Nasrullah, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimmingham, and Julie Massey, chapter sponsor.

A quorum was established with 91% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 1:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Pam began with a discussion of annual meeting updates. At the previous meeting of the Board, the decision had been made to offer Project of the Year to the leaders of the Bay Side Park Project. The Bay Side Park committee was enthusiastic, but they realized that the timing would not allow them to participate. They have asked to be reconsidered in 2023.

Pam welcomed suggestions for an alternative project, and discussion ensued. Meade asked for a list of previous projects, such as Beach Heroes, Monofilament Recycling, the Bird Rescue Program, Junior Naturalists, Camp Wild and more. Mohammad asked for the deadline for submission, which will be end of September with a virtual presentation on October 11th. Patty suggested that Mohammad's community JEDI program would be a worthy Project of the Year, and an important project for other chapters to emulate. Mohammad agreed that he would be happy to explore the possibility of submitting a proposal.

Pam asked Meade for an update on the chapter photo contest, and Meade reported that she had twenty entries so far, and that she would like to remind members about submitting their entries at the chapter meeting on August 4th. Next Pam mentioned the chapter video contest, and Patty mentioned that Gene had created a successful slide show for the fall training class Meet & Greet that had been held on July 28th.

Since the previous meeting of the board, a steering committee to head up the Silent Auction had been formed, and the committee had drafted a letter to go out to all chapters to solicit auction items. During the actual auction, GBAC volunteers will be needed most of the day on Thursday and Saturday evening.

Next, Pam mentioned that GBAC has been a faithful sponsor of the annual meeting with a donation of \$300 each year. Cindy Liening said that the 2022 budget had included the sum of \$500 for this purpose. Some discussion ensued, and the board was in general agreement to support the 2022 annual meeting at the \$500 level.

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 will highlight organizations housed at the Agri-Life Extension offices, such as Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and others. 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..

Finally, Pam reported that she had visited with Chuck Snyder about SLACK, the messaging program, similar to a bulletin board, designed for workplaces and collaborations. She asked for opinions from the Board on the usefulness of the program. Discussion ensued, and the general consensus was for the Board to continue experimenting with it for two or three months longer.

NEW BUSINESS:

A discussion of Scholarships to attend the Annual Meeting was introduced. Historically, the Chapter has awarded two scholarships to cover registration fees for attendance at the Annual Conference. Pam nominated Maureen Nolan-Wilde and Patty Trimmingham to receive the chapter scholarships for 2022. Patty expressed her appreciation, but she respectfully declined the nomination, as she had been a recipient within the past few years. Patty asked that someone else receive the benefit for 2022. Ellen recommended that Mohammad receive the scholarship in recognition of his extensive work with JEDI. Enthusiastic discussion followed, and upon motion made by Mike Petitt and seconded by Cindy Liening, a unanimous decision was made to award scholarships for the annual meeting to Maureen Nolan-Wilde and Mohammad Nasrullah.

A discussion of the August Chapter meeting followed. Pam would place the following members and topics on the agenda: Ellen will provide a slide for upcoming AT opportunities, Meade wished to discuss the photo contest, Patty would present volunteer service hour awards, Vivian and Lisa would request volunteers to assist with centerpieces for the December Awards Dinner, Pam would discuss the Silent Auction project, and Pam will also share slides from FB and Smug Mug to highlight the Chapter's rewarding and interesting summer activities.

BOARD REPORTS:

President (Pam House)

Pam was satisfied that all she had covered the issues of her president's report in Old and New Business.

Vice President (Pam House for Tyler Coleman)

Tyler who wanted the Board know that everything was in order to hear American Bird Conservancy's Kristen Vale speak at the Chapter meeting on August 4th.

Treasurer (Cindy Liening)

Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Ellen to accept the July financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty reported 544 Impacts for the month of July, along with 2,669.5 Volunteer Service hours and 139.5 hours of AT. So far in 2022, 102 members have recertified, and Skip Almoney reached 4,000 hours. Patty announced that she, Tracy Walpole, and Cindy Liening will be implementing a method to pay chapter dues online. More information will be made available to the membership soon.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)

Jo reported that based on the number of inquiries she has received recently regarding approved GBAC volunteer service opportunities, she will be reviewing the *TMN Chapter Management and Operations Protocols* and working with Patty to make some clarifications. Revised information will be posted on the GBAC website, and if appropriate, in the *Midden*.

Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff and Mike Pettitt)

Ellen mentioned the following upcoming Advance Training opportunities:

On Wednesday August 31st at 2:00 pm via Zoom, "Safe Passage, San Antonio's Land Bridge" will be presented by Chuck Sasser.

On Tuesday evening, September 20th, "The Texas Coastal Exchange, 1000 Miles of Living Shoreline Project" will be presented by Jim Blackburn. The AT committee will meet in August to discuss inclusion of other chapters and community contacts for this presentation. (More on this subject below)

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammad Nasrullah)

Mohammad reported that the JEDI Committee has been meeting monthly. They are developing a couple of upcoming presentations. A proposal will be forthcoming that GBAC JEDI AT presentations be made available to other chapters and local community, and not limited to GBAC members only. Pam commented that the technological requirements of the system and participant preregistration were issues that could be resolved. Ellen commented that the Advanced Training Committee was also interested in sharing programs with a wider audience, particularly Jim Blackburn's September presentation. Mohammad commented that the Jim Blackburn lecture would have wide appeal to the community. Cindy asked that this topic be included on next month's agenda in order to discuss the logistics with the technology group, including Chuck and Maureen.

New Class Training (Pam House for Gene Fisseler)

A successful Meet & Greet for potential members of the Fall Training Class was held on July 28th, with 22 attendees. Applications are out now and will be returned by August 5th.

Communications (Meade LeBlanc)

Other than the topics she had addressed previously, Meade was pleased to report that the Hehir twins had just created their 100th FB post for the chapter's page, which is averaging 500 views per day.

Chapter Sponsor (Julie Massey)

Julie thanked everyone for welcoming and working with her two summer interns, and she let the Board know that Kiara will be presenting at the Annual Conference, and her topic would probably be "My Summer with Texas Master Naturalists." Also, Julie is helping Gene with organizing the Fall training class.

In closing, Pam asked that the September board meeting scheduled for September 6th, be held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 30th at 6:00 pm. The remaining meetings for 2022 will be October 4th, November 1st, and November 29th. The Board will decide at each meeting whether the next one will be conducted via Zoom or in person.

There being no further business, upon motion made by Mike and seconded by Ellen, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes