

## **GBAC BOARD SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

**August 30, 2022**

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Tyler Coleman, Gene Fisseler, Ellen Gerloff, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Jo Monday, Mohammad Nasrullah, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimingham, James Malzahn, alternate, and Julie Massey, chapter sponsor.

A quorum was established with 100% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 6:00 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Pam began with a discussion of annual meeting plans. She reported that the Steering Committee heading up the Silent Auction was working well. During the actual auction, GBAC volunteers will be needed most of the day on Thursday and Saturday evening. Volunteers will not need to be registered for the conference, and Pam understood that parking fees would be reimbursed.

Next Pam reminded the Board that two scholarships had been given for Mohammad and Maureen's fees to attend the State Conference. Maureen had declined to accept, as she would not be attending this year. Pam explained that the Chapter had also received a \$100 scholarship from the State to be given to one member. Pam mentioned Mattie Elsik for the scholarship. As Mattie would be home recovering from knee replacement, virtual attendance would be perfect for her. Upon motion made by Pam and seconded by Cindy, all voted in favor of Mattie receiving the scholarship.

As for future events, Pam asked Julie to discuss the Fall Festival, scheduled for Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at Carbide Park, and Julie said that due to multiple conflicts on that date, the Chapter would not participate on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but that there would be future opportunities to organize a festival to celebrate the Chapter and the community.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Pam reminded the Board of the continuing need for long-term planning and the disposition of the Chapter funds on hand. She announced that Meade had agreed to chair an *AD HOC* Long-term Planning Committee, and that Jo had agreed to serve. The new Committee will consider up to a 5-year plan and report their ideas to the Board. Lisa expressed an interest in participating, and she was welcomed.

Pam also mentioned that the next TMN Tuesday would be September 13<sup>th</sup>. Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, the Texas State Climatologist, would be speaking.

## **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 (Tyler Coleman)**

Tyler reported that Dr. Dan Worrall, would be the guest speaker for the next Chapter meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Worrall would present "People of the Late Archaic Lower Brazos Culture."

### **Treasurer (Cindy Liening)**

Cindy mentioned that she will be drafting the 2023 budget in the next month, and she will be looking for members' best estimations of class sizes, future expenditures, etc. The budget is normally approved in November with a first pass presented in October and final approval sought at the December meeting.

Next, Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Ellen to accept the August financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Membership (Patty Trimingham)**

Patty reported 269 Impacts for the month of August, along with 2,516.25 Volunteer Service hours and 169 hours of AT. So far in 2022, 111 members had recertified, and Brenda Gonzales had reached 5,000 hours. Patty asked when she should circulate the link for members to pay dues online, and Cindy assured her it would be soon.

### **Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)**

Jo expressed her pleasure that the Spring class and the Fall class have been quite active and interested in how to report their hours. Jo reported that she had a request from Galveston Ornithological Society for the Chapter to get involved in eradicating Chinese Tallow trees on Galveston Island. Jo responded to GOS that the chapter would need safety measures in place before members could handle dangerous chemicals, and she had heard nothing further. Julie mentioned that there is specific training available for handling pesticides, etc., and that her office could set it up when requested.

### **Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff and Mike Petitt)**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, Emily Morrison and Sandy Parker had hosted a hands-on training for Plastic Film Recycling, and 14 attended.

Next, Ellen mentioned the following upcoming Advance Training opportunities:

**Safe Passage: San Antonio's Robert L. B. Tobin Land Bridge**

Wednesday August 31, 2022; 2 PM via Zoom/Registration required; 1+ hrs AT

Presenter: Teresa Shumaker

**The Texas Coastal Exchange 1000 Mile Living Shoreline Project**

Tuesday September 20, 2022; 6:00 PM via Zoom/Registration required; 1.25 hours AT.

Presenter: Jim Blackburn

**Why Ecology Matters**

Thursday November 17, 2022; 6 PM via Zoom/Registration required; 1.5 hours AT. Presenter: Cindy Howard

Next, Ellen Reported on the most recent meeting of the AT Committee: Following a detailed discussion during the August 15, 2022 AT Committee meeting, the Committee decided to use Zoom registration for future presentations starting with the San Antonio Land Bridge AT on 8/31/22. Zoom registration would not be necessary for AT committee meetings or chapter book study meetings.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding the GBAC Board's suggestion that a wider community audience be invited to all our chapter's advanced trainings. It was noted that the mission of the AT Committee is to provide advance training opportunities for our GBA chapter not community outreach activities. The purpose of AT is to focus on specific topics of interest pertaining to Texas natural resources and to expand the knowledge of chapter members for continued learning and development of naturalist skills for volunteer services. The AT Committee wants to continue to preserve the personal nature of our presentations which allows questions and conversations with our speakers. Understanding the goals of diversity and inclusion, the AT Committee will endeavor to offer occasional presentations that could include a broader audience when appropriate but prefers to focus on our obligations to chapter members per the AT requirements in the TMN Chapter Management and Operations Protocols. The Board should encourage the reactivation of the Education and Outreach Committee with the goal of that committee to contact and educate a broader, more diverse public community.

Board discussion ensued with general support for using Education and Outreach as a means of wider community involvement. Pam thanked Ellen and Mike and the Advanced Training Committee for their time and effort.

**Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammad Nasrullah)**

Mohammad thanked the AT Committee for their work, and he mentioned that the JEDI Committee's programs that included mixed attendance between Chapter and community had been working well. As for JEDI presentations, Mohammad is interesting in exploring Houston Mayor Turner's initiative called the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights. Other cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and Boston have implemented the initiative. Mohammad was coordinating with a speaker to address the topic.

Pam asked Mohammad about the status of the JEDI Presentation for the State Conference, and he assured her that he planned to have a draft ready in a week's time.

Mohammad also mentioned that on September 10, there would be a Climate Summit at Rice University, and he offered to place the details on Slack for anyone who would be interested in attending.

### **New Class Training (Gene Fisseler)**

Gene reported that all 31 trainees were present at the inaugural meeting of the Fall Training Class on Thursday, August 25th, and that 35 Chapter members were also present. Gene said the first meeting was highly successful, and he was encouraged and excited about the new class.

### **Communications (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade's committee was wrapping up the Photo Contest, and winners would be selected by mid-September. She said that the quality of the entries was top-notch, and that judging would be a challenge. She also said that she would like to have many of the photos projected during dinner and visitation at the October Chapter meeting.

### **Chapter Sponsor (Julie Massey)**

Julie thanked everyone for coming together to make the Fall Training Class happen. She said that someone needs to step up now to lead the Spring of 2023 class. Julie also mentioned that plans were in the works to hire her summer intern, Kiara, hopefully beginning work fulltime in September.

In closing, Pam reminded the Board that the year would soon be ending, and she would need to know preliminarily in October who would be willing to keep their positions on the Board. Cindy's position is term limited and Jo has indicated her desire to pass on the Volunteer Services directorship. Pam requested as much advance notice as possible if she needs to replace additional roles.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 4th and will be held via Zoom at 6:00 pm. The remaining meetings for 2022 will be November 1<sup>st</sup>, and November 29<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, upon motion made by Mike and seconded by Ellen, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes