

GBAC BOARD NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

November 1, 2022

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Tyler Coleman, Gene Fisseler, Ellen Gerloff, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Cindy Liening, Jo Monday, Mohammad Nasrullah, Mike Petitt, Kathy Tamer, Patty Trimmingham, Tracy Walpole, and James Malzahn

A quorum was established with 93% 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 September 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pam discussed planning for the December chapter meeting, scheduled for December 1st. She reported that the Wayne Johnson Center at Carbide Park had been reserved, and it would accommodate the same number of guests as the room at Walter Hall. The set-up committee will not be admitted before 4:30 pm on the 1st, so Pam will circulate an invitation and request Rsvp's for added efficiency in planning and set-up.

Pam also reminded the Board that November 16 will be the deadline for Treasures of the Bay nominations.

Next, Pam announced that Texas Master Naturalists at State level have adopted new organizational documents for 2023, including the CMOP, which is the Chapter Management and Operating Protocols, and the By-Laws. These are the basic operating documents for all TMN chapters, and with 30 days' notice, the GBAC chapter will need to review them and vote to accept them. Therefore, at the December Board meeting, the Board will review the documents with a plan to present them to the Membership for formal approval at the Chapter's February meeting.

BOARD REPORTS:

President (Pam House)

Pam was pleased to report that the Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting was successful and that Treasurer Cindy would provide details. She also mentioned that the 2023 Annual Meeting would be held in McAllen during a rare solar eclipse, and that McAllen would enjoy 88% visibility at that time.

Finally, Pam described the 2023 Recertification Pin that will be a colorful map of Texas that will display the state's Eco-Regions.

Vice-President (Tyler Coleman)

While Tyler was happy to coordinate the December Chapter meeting, he regretted that due to his work schedule, he would be unable to continue as Vice-President in the new year. However, he offered to share several leads for future presentations with his successor.

Discussion ensued, and the Board thanked Tyler for his efforts on developing worthwhile programs for 2022 and expressed gratitude for his service.

Treasurer (Cindy Liening)

Cindy provided the financial report. The Silent Auction at the Annual Meeting raised a total of \$8,620, of which GBAC would keep 20% and send \$6,905 to State. After discussion, a motion was made by Gene and seconded by Lisa to accept the October financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Cindy shared a draft of the proposed 2023 budget. She explained that she was still receiving budget requests, and she was updating as they were presented. She requested that board members and committee leaders send their final 2023 estimates to her as soon as possible, so she could present a solid budget at the next Board meeting. As per the By-Laws, final approval of next year's budget must be in place no later than the December meeting.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty reported that October saw 3,515.25 Volunteer Service hours, 260.75 hours of AT, and a remarkable increase in impacts: 3,799, up from 912 in September. Patty attributed the rise to October events at GISP, Armand Bayou, EIH, and the Fall Festival at Bay Side Park.

Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff)

Ellen reported that the next GBAC-sponsored AT would be held on Thursday, November 17th: "Why Ecology Matters," presented by Cindy Howard.

The AT Committee is already lining up presentations for January and February, 2023. Lynn and John Wright will present a Diurnal Raptor AT on Tuesday, February 21st from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Fall Class Training (Gene Fisseler)

Gene announced that the Fall Training Class would meet for the final time on Thursday, November 3rd. He commented that the challenge in training volunteers with full-time career obligations was a high number of absences from week to week. Therefore, the

Training Team set up make-up sessions almost immediately to ensure that the trainees were able to get their required hours in. Gene said that leading the Fall Training Class had been a rewarding experience, and he was willing to lead the 2023 class if it were offered.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammad Nasrullah)

Mohammad reported that his time at the Annual Meeting had been enjoyable and productive. While he was there, he met several people who could serve as community speakers, and he was currently coordinating with one of them for a January presentation.

Next, Mohammad reported that the Chapter's Opportunity Showcase held on October 27 had been very successful with nine volunteers expressing an interest in joining the JEDI Committee or helping in the future.

Prior to adjournment, Pam reminded the Board that she needed year-end committee reports from all committee leaders.

The December Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 29th, to be conducted via Zoom at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes