

GBAC BOARD JANUARY MEETING and DAYAWAY MINUTES

January 15, 2023

Attendees at Clear Lake Shores Community Center: Pam House, Vivian Allen, Laura Clark, Mary Dobberstine, Gene Fisseler, Lisa Hardcastle, Cynthia Hughes, Diane Humes, Meade LeBlanc, Mohammad Nasrullah, Mike Petitt, Abhi Prasad, Patty Trimmingham, and Julie Massey, Advisor. As this was a meeting of current and past Directors, also present were Ellen Gerloff, Cindy Liening, Tracy Walpole, and Kathy Tamer.

A quorum was established with 93.75% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 10:00 am. Pam welcomed past and present Directors to an extended session for a "Day Away" meeting that would include an examination of Chapter goals for the coming year. The first business before the Board was the request for a motion to approve Director Appointments for 2023. Pam noted with thanks that Diane Humes had agreed to chair the Spring 2023 Training Class and Mary Dobberstine had accepted the appointment of Communication Director. Vivian made the motion, Gene provided the second, and the motion was passed unanimously to approve Director Appointments for 2023.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Pam asked that the plan to present the newly revised Chapter Operating Handbook to the membership of the Chapter for approval be postponed until the April Chapter meeting.

Next, Meade discussed the appointment of a Financial Examination Committee, and she explained that the newly revised Chapter Operating Handbook called for a committee of Directors to review the ledger and financial documents for the prior year. She noted that the COH called for the Vice President, Secretary, Training Class Representative and Chapter Advisor to comprise the committee. Meade offered to organize a future day and time that would work for the committee to meet. Pam appointed Gene as the chair of the committee. Lisa agreed to act as the Training Class Representative.

A discussion followed to plan the February Chapter meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 2nd. The consensus was to offer a hybrid meeting both in person and by Zoom. The 2023 Chapter meeting dates will be February 2nd, April 6th, June 1st, August 3rd, October 5th, and December 7th.

Further, Pam listed the following dates for 2023 Board meetings, the last Tuesday of each month, except for December: February – January 31st, March—February 28th, April—March 28th, May—April 25th, June—May 30th, July—June 27th, August—July 25th, September—August 29th, October—September 26th, November—October 24th, December—November 28th

BOARD REPORTS:

President (Pam House)

Pam reported that she, Julie, and Maureen have been writing a formal grant application for a grant from B-WET (Bay Watershed Education and Training) through NOAA. Pam explained that if the Chapter were approved for the grant, it could provide funding over a two-year period for several of the Chapter's educational programs, such as Beach Heroes, Treasures of the Bay, and Camp Wild. The application must be submitted no later than January 27th. Pam asked for ratification from the Board to approve submitting the grant application. Upon motion duly made by Laura and seconded by Lisa, the motion was unanimously approved to submit the grant proposal to B-WET. The Directors expressed gratitude to the grant application team.

Vice President (Gene Fisseler)

Gene noted that he is working to line up speakers for the 2023 Chapter meetings. At the top of his list are Jaime Gonzalez Santana, astronaut Kjell N. Lindgren, and meteorologist John Nielsen-Gammon. Gene would be looking for additional speakers, and he encouraged the Directors to offer suggestions.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade provided the financial report. She was happy to announce receipt of two donations, \$1,000 from Texas Instruments and a private donation of \$1,000 restricted to Chapter scholarships. After discussion, a motion was made by Gene and seconded by Patty to accept the December financial report as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Pam also took a moment to let the Board know that beginning in 2023, only a single signature would be required for checks written up to the amount of \$1,000. She said that this was set forth in the latest guidelines from State, and it would simplify procedures, as until now, every check had required two signatures.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

For 2022, Members reported more than 45,000 Volunteer Service hours and 3,280 AT hours. The Chapter has 261 active members, with more than 115 members who have already paid 2023 Chapter dues.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)

In Jo's absence, Kathy greeted the group and reported that Jo continues to field calls about approved volunteer service hours. It was mentioned that it would be very helpful for those posting volunteer opportunities via Constant Contact to include information regarding the VMS designation and whether the opportunity was pre-approved.

Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)

Mike announced three great opportunities for advanced training by Zoom: **Ecological Function of Small-scale Living Shorelines in Galveston Bay**, presented by Cindy Howard and Jim Dobberstine and will be conducted on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom for 1.25 hours AT.

On Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:00 pm via Zoom for 1.5 hours AT, **Diurnal Raptors of the Galveston Bay Area** will be presented by Lynn and John Wright.

On Wednesday, March 22 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, retired geologist and Audubon Master Birder, Scott Kiester, will present **Wrens**.

Spring Class Training (Diane Humes)

Diane reported that she had begun preliminary meetings with her team regarding the Spring Training Class. She announced that the Spring Class would begin after Spring Break and run straight through without a break. The tentative dates will be March 23rd through May 18th. She will schedule a Meet & Greet with applicants for February 16th. Diane noted that while there are still logistics to be worked out, she is looking forward to another successful training class. The Board thanked Diane for taking on this very important job and for all she does on a regular basis for the Chapter.

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammad Nasrullah)

Mohammad reported that he was working on February Community AT logistics and making plans for continued outreach to underserved communities in 2023.

Communications (Mary Dobberstine)

Mary reported that she is educating herself with all the different aspects of Communications. She is making flow-charts and feeling gung-ho. The Board expressed appreciation for her enthusiasm and commitment.

Class Reps Spring 2022 Class

Lisa reported that 23 of 26 spring class members have certified, and that she and Vivian would reach out to the three who are taking a little longer to get there. Lisa was also happy to let the Board know that her class had taken on the Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve located on the east side of League City as its special project, and that the prairie had just received the following designation, "Certified Native Texas Prairie."

Class Reps Fall 2022 Class

Mary, Laura and Abhi reported that they were also reaching out to members of the Fall class who may be taking longer to certify. Discussion ensued on the value of providing alternative volunteer opportunities to members who work full time and/or have young children at home. Julie reminded the meeting that this class had completed training only two months ago.

Chapter Advisor (Julie Massey)

Julie thanked Patty and Cindy for helping out a few days a week in the Carbide office while she searches for a new administrative assistant.

Julie also mentioned that on April 4th, 400 fourth graders will participate in a coastal/water themed day-fest, and she will be looking for volunteers to populate booths and activities.

She will have two more interns for this summer, funded by Texas Sea-Grant. They will be looking for college undergraduates who have faced adversity in their college experience.

Next, Julie discussed the value of Camp Wild, a 5-day day camp for students who have just completed the 4th grade. Camp Wild is held every summer during the first week of June, and while it held at Galveston Island State Park and funded by The Friends of Galveston Island State Park, most of the volunteers come from the Galveston Bay Area Chapter of TMN. Julie discussed the challenges of recruiting ongoing leadership for the camp. In an effort to address the challenge, Julie asked the Board to consider hiring a special consultant to serve as Program Director of Camp Wild, Ms. Stanzie Seshier. Stanzie has written her own Sea Camp curriculum, and she has served as an instructor of the instructors at TAMUG Sea Camp. Stanzie has educated more than 3,000 Sea Camp students. Discussion ensued, after which the following resolution was made by Laura and seconded by Vivian. Julie Massey abstained, and the following motion was unanimously approved:

RESOLVED, That Ms. Stanzie Seshier be hired as a special consultant to serve as program director of the 2023 Camp Wild.

At this point, the meeting was paused for a lengthy discussion of 2023 goals. At 2:50 pm, the meeting reconvened. Patty made the following motion, Gene provided the second, and the motion was unanimously passed:

RESOLVED, That the Board adopt the following goals for 2023:

1. Rebuilding the Outreach Committee with a focus on the development, coordination, and support of presentations made by Chapter members to other organizations.

2. Conduct a 2023 Treasures of the Bay training class for teachers to obtain in-service training in coastal and marine topics.
3. Focus on JEDI by identifying volunteer opportunities for weekends, evenings, and at home, and by adding a JEDI component to all programs. This will include the Emeritus program.
4. Succession Planning will remain an ongoing goal. In 2023, there will need to be a search for the position of President, other officers, and committee chairs for the upcoming year.
5. Restarting and expanding the role of the Scholarship Committee to identify appropriate and best scholarship practices and uses across chapter events and to publicize availability in accordance with JEDI principals.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Hughes