

GBAC BOARD AUGUST MEETING
August 29, 2023

Attendees: Pam House, Gene Fisseler, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Jo Monday, Mike Pettitt, Diane Humes, Mary Dobberstine, Patty Trimmingham, Abhi Prasad, Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio and Julie Massey, Chapter Advisor. Mohammad Nasrullah, Laura Clark, and Jesse Monzingo were absent.

This meeting was called to order by Pam House at 6:12 pm.

Old Business:

The minutes of the July 25, 2023, Board Meeting that had been previously emailed to the Board by Lisa were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Mary Dobberstine and seconded by Patty Trimmingham to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Gene Fisseler presented to the Board a recommendation from the Training Team (Gene, Cindy Howard, Pam House, Diane Humes and Julie Massey) which had been emailed to the Board prior to today's meeting. Based on the goal of "developing a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas", while recognizing limiting factors such as the availability of chapter volunteers, the committee recommends one training class per year, during the spring months. Odd years (2023, 2025, etc.) will have a daytime class and to assist in reaching a more diverse population, evening years (2022, 2024, etc.) will have an evening class. Additionally, the results of this recommendation will be monitored. Mike Pettitt made the motion to accept the recommendation and Patty Trimmingham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Pam shared with the Board a request from Jim Duron to provide funds for the purchase of additional materials (soil and seed trays) for stewardship projects. Meade LeBlanc made a motion to approve increasing the previous stewardship budget allocation of \$250 to \$500 for this purpose. Gene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam also shared that Sandy Parker is requesting the chapter purchase a mower for the Native Garden area of the Bayside Regional Park project. Julie shared concerns regarding the chapter "owning" equipment. Options such as soliciting volunteers to mow the area, renting a mower, or working with the County Park staff to better understand the needs of the project were discussed. No further action was taken at this time.

Next, Pam asked for input on scholarships for the TMN Annual Meeting. The chapter has three \$100 scholarships to distribute. Pam suggested we offer scholarships to the following chapter members: Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Chuck Snyder, and Cindy Howard, based on their contributions to the chapter. Patty made a motion to approve the recommendation. Lisa Hardcastle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Reports:

President (Pam House):

Pam reported the information she received at the TMN Chapter President's meeting. Upcoming TMN Tuesday topics are, September – "Safer Skies for Migrating Birds" and October – "Project Fair." She also shared information about the Newsletter and Scrapbook Contests. She reminded the Board that the chapter will be contributing a \$1,000.00 level Sponsorship to the annual meeting, we also need to submit "membership milestones" to be announced at the annual meeting and ten photographs for the annual meeting slideshow.

Vice President (Gene Fisseler):

Gene announced that the speaker for the October Chapter Meeting will be Katie St. Clair, Sea Life Facility Manager at Texas A&M at Galveston.

Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle):

Lisa had nothing to share with the Board.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc):

Meade summarized the most recent monthly financial report. The academic scholarships have been distributed. Gene made a motion to accept the financial report. Corlis Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham):

Patty shared her monthly report via email with Board members prior to the meeting. In summary, impacts are down, volunteer service hours are up as well as advanced training hours.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday):

Jo shared that the state has revised the way members can count volunteer service hours as related to outside Board service and citizen science activities such as iNaturalist and eBird. Regarding outside Board service (e.g., Friends of Galveston Island State Park, Armand Bayou Nature Center, etc.), it was recommended that the Chapter Management and Operations Protocols be reviewed, and a recommendation be presented to the Board for approval prior to the next meeting. Changes will be announced to the chapter.

Advanced Training (Mike Pettit):

Mike shared his Advanced Training Report prior to the meeting with the Board. Three programs were completed in August and there are five programs being offered in September at this time.

New Class (Diane Humes):

Diane reported that most of the Spring class is doing well. However, six members have not yet completed class requirements. Lisa suggested enlisting the help of their mentors to encourage completion and suggest ideas. Diane also requested that members attending the State Meeting write articles for the Midden, as had been encouraged in past years.

Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nasrullah):

Mohammed was not present, but he sent a report to the Board via email before the meeting. There are two upcoming Community Advanced Trainings in September. He and his committee are also working on several projects.

Communication (Mary Dobberstine):

Mary continues to work on chapter email addresses. The current plan is for the chapter to purchase a domain name through GoDaddy and then set up the Google nonprofit workspace account. Mary also is working with Jesse Monzingo on the chapter's photo contest. They have received approximately sixty entries and will be judging them this week.

Class Reps Fall 2022 (Abhi Prasad and Laura Clark):

Abhi reported that eighteen classmates have certified, and others are close. He did send an email out after the last Board meeting and will send out another soon. He is aware that November 3 is the deadline for initial certification.

Class Reps Spring 2023 (Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio, and Jesse Monzingo):

Lynn reported that she sent an email out to her class recently. She liked Lisa's idea of mentors contacting mentees that may be struggling with certification. Corlis also stated that she would try calling classmates.

Sponsor (Julie Massey):

Julie informed the Board that there is a new Office Manager/TMN assistant on board at the Carbide Park office, Nicole Montrose. She also shared a volunteer opportunity for chapter members on Saturday, September 30, when the League City Garden Club will be having its annual Garden Walk. The Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve will be a "drive-by" location for the event. Julie also reported that one of the summer interns, Skyler Nix, was able to successfully advocate the City Council for College Station to adopt the Lights Out Program. Julie announced that Treasures of the Bay information will be going

out to chapter members in September so that the winners will be announced at the December meeting. She also reminded the Board that it is time to plan the fall Meet and Greet for prospective applicants for the Spring training class.

Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held September 26 via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle