

GBAC BOARD SEPTEMBER MEETING  
September 26, 2023

**Attendees via Zoom:** Pam House, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Jo Monday, Mike Pettitt, Diane Humes, Mary Dobberstine, Mohammad Nasrullah, Patty Trimmingham, Abhi Prasad, Laura Clark, Corlis Simmons, Lynn Porfirio, Jesse Monzingo and Julie Massey, Chapter Advisor. Also present were Tracy Walpole and Chuck Snyder.

This meeting was called to order by Pam House at 6:00 pm.

**Old Business:**

The minutes of the August 2023 meeting that had been previously emailed to the Board were offered for discussion. Lisa mentioned a late correction of adding Tracy to the attendees list. A motion was made by Mohammad and seconded by Mike to approve the minutes as written and corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Mary updated the Board regarding a chapter internet domain, Google Space account and email addresses. We have purchased a GBAC domain name for two years from GoDaddy®. The Google for Nonprofits account for non-profits has been confirmed, but she has not set up payments yet. She would like to use the free ten-day trial before committing to monthly payments. She continues to investigate email addresses for chapter officers and how best to proceed. She is meeting with a member of Coastal Prairie Chapter to understand how they have done it. It was mentioned that Armand Bayou Nature Center uses Google for Nonprofits and it was suggested that she discuss with someone there.

**New Business:**

Pam opened up discussion regarding approving Board work for the Citizen Environmental Coalition as volunteer service for chapter members. After discussion regarding the type of work they are involved in, Mike made a motion to approve volunteer service related to Board work for the organization and Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Pam discussed the October hybrid chapter meeting. Chuck and Maureen Nolan-Wilde will be present to manage Zoom. Verva Densmore and Lynn Wright will monitor the Zoom participants informal gathering prior to the start of the official meeting. Chuck shared that the chapter has purchased an illuminated pointer to allow Zoom participants to see what presenters are pointing at in the presentations. Winning photographs from the recent Photography Contest will be shared. Artwork from the Beach Heroes program will also be shared.

Discussion was also held about the December chapter meeting on December 7. This will be an in-person event only. It was suggested that carpooling opportunities might be shared with those interested. Additionally, Treasures of the Bay information will be going out soon so that winners can be recognized at the meeting.

## **Board Reports:**

### **President (Pam House)**

Pam mentioned that she was reminded that the Annual Meeting has an “In Memoriam” presentation. She would like to ensure that Dick Benoit and Tim O’Connell are included.

### **Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)**

Lisa shared that she and Cindy Howard presented to Highland Lakes Chapter today in Galveston. The HLC presented a check for \$150.00 to GBAC and \$150.00 to Friends of Galveston Island State Park. Lisa will send the checks to Meade and Sharon Tirpak. Lisa also announced that there will be a workday at Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve on October 4 from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. League City Parks staff will participate as well.

### **Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade sent the monthly financial report to Board members prior to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Mike to accept the August financial report. Chuck shared that Exxon Mobil will be cutting back on contributions which may impact our chapter’s budget in the future.

### **Membership (Patty Trimmingham)**

Patty shared that she has some corrections to make to the headings on the membership report shared with Board members prior to the meeting. In summary, three trainees have completed the classwork, four have obtained initial certification and nine have re-certified. Additionally, two members will receive their 500-hour pin at the chapter meeting.

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

Jo shared more information about the Highland Lakes Chapter visit to the area which included activities at Brazos Bend State Park, Galveston Island State Park and Armand Bayou Nature Center. Participants provided their own transportation, paid for hotel rooms and meals. She suggested that our members may be interested in organizing activities such as this.

### **Advanced Training (Mike Pettit)**

Mike shared his report with Board members prior to the meeting. There was one GBAC AT Committee sponsored AT activity (Movement of Sea Turtles); two JEDI community presentations (Karankawa Culture, Past and Present and Audubon Texas’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Work and Lessons Learned); one Independent

Presentation (Plant ID or Transects 101) and one Heritage Book Study discussion (in September. Future programs include the October chapter meeting presentation (Fishes of Galveston Bay) and a GBAC AT Committee sponsored presentation (How Nature Builds a Prairie and a Forest) on November 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. The JEDI team is offering a community tour of the Nia Cultural Center Juneteenth Legacy Project Headquarters on October 28 and community AT (We Belong: A Conversation About Equity in the Outdoors) on December 5. The Heritage Book Study Club will meet October 2 via Zoom.

### **New Class (Diane Humes)**

It's time to start planning a "Meet and Greet" for the next training class, which will be held this spring. Diane, Gene and Julie will get together soon to begin planning. Diane is also pleased that most of the members of the most recent training class have completed their coursework.

### **Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nasrullah)**

Mohammed sent an email to members prior to the meeting outlining upcoming activities, a community tour of the Nia Cultural Center Juneteenth Legacy Project Headquarters on October 28 and community AT (We Belong: A Conversation About Equity in the Outdoors) on December 5. The committee also plans to have a table at the REI "Outdoors for All" event on November 4. Mohammed asked whether the October 28 event can be offered to the community. It was decided that the event would be announced at the chapter meeting and after that he can open the registration to the public. Mohammed reported that the speaker for the *We Belong: A Conversation About Equity in the Outdoors* presentation is asking for a \$150.00 fee, which is above the \$50 honorarium typically given to presenters. After a lengthy discussion regarding the topic, Laura made a motion and Mohammed seconded it that the \$150.00 fee come out of the Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity budget. The motion passed.

### **Communication (Mary Dobberstine)**

It's festival season! Mary shared that members are participating in several activities this month. The Bayside Regional Park NatureFest is on October 7 and Baytown's Nurture Nature Festival is on October 14. Our chapter will have booths at both festivals. Additionally, she and Karen Hazen have been organizing and inventorying the equipment closet at Carbide Park.

### **Class Reps Fall 2022 (Abhi Prasad and Laura Clark)**

Abhi sent an email to classmates about two weeks ago reminding them about certifying. Earlier today, Laura sent out individual emails to classmates tailored to what they need to complete their training. They are confident that all their classmates will finish.

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

Corlis shared that three members of the class have completed class. She and Lynn will divide up the list of classmates who have not completed the class and call them to help. Lynn will send an email with a “shoutout” to those who have certified and offer ideas for those who have not.

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

Julie reported that the chapter will have booths at the League City Garden Club's Garden Walk on September 30. One booth will be at Ghirardi Family Watersmart Park and the other will be on the tour with information about the Dick Benoit Prairie Preserve. The Master Gardeners are having a Fall Festival on October 21 and will send out an email requesting volunteers. Additionally, the 4-H program is offering a family Science Night on October 18. She shared that she heard from Elsie Smith, a long-time member, who continues to enjoy the Midden and Heritage Book Study Club.

### **Other Business**

Pam shared that four chapters have submitted presentations for the Exemplary Project Fair Presentations that will be shared during the October TMN Tuesday presentation on October 3. Our chapter has submitted a presentation, *Bayside Regional Park: From Fish Farm to Natives*.

Our next Board meeting is scheduled for October 31, Pam inquired whether we should reschedule. It was decided to reschedule for October 24, via Zoom.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle