

GBAC BOARD MEETING November 28, 2023

Attendees via Zoom: Pam House, Gene Fisseler, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Mike Petitt, Diane Humes, Mary Dobberstine, Mohammad Nasrullah, Patty Trimmingham, Corlis Simmons, Jesse Monzingo, Lynn Porfirio and Julie Massey, Chapter Advisor. Also present were Sharon Tirpak, Tracy Walpole and Chuck Snyder. Jo Monday was absent.

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

Old Business:

The minutes of the November 7, 2023 Board meeting that had been previously emailed to the Board were offered for discussion. One addition was made (under Board Reports, Communication, in regard to securing a speaker for the February meeting, Mary requested that “with the assistance of Mohammed” be added). A motion was made by Gene and seconded by Mohammed to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam then reviewed the December meeting plans. Maureen may not be at the meeting but is arranging for someone to make her presentations. Mary will provide an “End of Year” slideshow. The families of Terry Gaustad and Sara Snell, two members who passed away this year, have been invited to the meeting. Patty will give a short presentation on membership and the design of the new re-certification pin will be announced. Diane will have a map of Texas State Parks and pins for members to “pin” the parks they have been to. There will be a short business meeting to elect new Board Officers.

Next, Mary shared progress on her Google Workspace and chapter email efforts. She has not given all Board members email addresses yet but is working on it. She is also consolidating various email addresses that have been previously in use for YouTube, Instagram, and other social media platforms to the new email addresses. Another activity she is working on is the migration of the contents of the old Google drive to the Google Workspace. She also shared that the photography team is experimenting with the use of Google Groups to organize events.

Pam then shared that Julie has spoken to the state TMN office and determined that the best course of action for mowing Bayside Regional Park would be for the chapter to buy a mower and donate it to the park. However, after communicating with county staff, she discovered that the county has mowers and staff to do the mowing. Therefore, no further action is necessary on the topic.

Meade reported that the new Board will be responsible for approving the 2024 budget, so no action is required at this time on the proposed budget shared with Board members. However, she reminded members to contact her if they need money for a

new project or additional money budgeted for a current project. Additionally, the annual financial review will be conducted early in the new year.

Tracy shared information on new badges. Three vendors were contacted for the project. One was not local, another did not have the colors desired, and the third provided a proposal which was sent to Board members prior to the meeting. Approximately three hundred badges will be ordered. Each badge will have the member's name, class year and chapter name with the dragonfly logo. The recommendation is to roll out the new badges in groups of one hundred with the initial order made in January. When members pay their dues, an option to receive or not receive a new badge will be provided to the member. For members who do not pick up their new badge at a meeting, the badge will be mailed to them. The cost of the new badges will come out of the 2024 Budget.

New Business:

There was some discussion about the new CoCoRaHS rain gauge and the possibility of stocking them in the bookstore. No action was taken at this time.

Board Reports:

President (Pam House)

Pam announced that the contract for the VMS has been renewed at the state level. The system will be upgraded and tested this coming year but will not be rolled out until later in the year. The state is also changing the pin ordering system after the first of the year.

Vice President (Gene Fisseler)

Nothing to report at this time.

Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)

Nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade shared the Finance Report with members prior to the meeting. Some donations made in Sara Snell's memory need to be resubmitted by the donors. Mary made a motion to accept the report and Mohammed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham/Tracy Walpole)

The membership report was shared with the Board prior to the meeting. In summary, 149 members re-certified, which is one more than last year. No additional members of the last training class have certified, but they have submitted volunteer hours. Patty is creating three new opportunities for Galveston Bay Foundation volunteer service in response to volunteer activities.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday/Sharon Tirpak)

Sharon has met with Jo to discuss procedures. She has also been monitoring emails to learn more about her responsibilities. It was recommended that she form an informal committee with Mike and Patty to assist with the approval of volunteer service.

Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)

Mike shared an AT report with Board members prior to the meeting. There are several trainings scheduled for the new year. Scheduling locations for the in-person trainings has been a challenge.

New Class (Diane Humes)

Diane asked whether the chapter should delay the next training class until the fall due to the possible lack of a Chapter Advisor in the spring. Julie stated that AgriLife often puts in place a temporary Advisor until a new one is hired. She also shared that there is a lot of interest in a spring class. It was decided to proceed with a spring training class.

Justice, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (Mohammed Nassrullah)

Mohammed reported that there is a Community AT on December 5. He also has a new JEDI team member. His goal is to have six Outreach events in 2024.

Communication (Mary Dobberstine)

Nothing to report other than she would like to partner more with Mohammed next year.

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

Lynn reported that she sent an email to the Spring class but did not receive many replies. There are a couple of people who will assist in cleaning up after the December meeting. She needs people to help with the set-up. Corlis did not have anything additional to share.

Advisor (Julie Massey)

Julie shared that she is looking forward to next week's meeting. She thanked Pam for her service as President, especially after just finishing her training. She also is excited for the chapter to have a new Advisor.

Other Business

Gene reported that the next Board meeting will be a retreat on a Saturday in January. He will send out dates for feedback soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle