

GBAC BOARD JUNE MEETING

Via Zoom

June 25, 2024

Attendees via Zoom: Gene Fisseler, Mary Dobberstine, Meade LeBlanc, Lisa Hardcastle, Sharon Tirpak, Mike Petitt, Diane Humes, Mohammed Nasrullah, Tracy Walpole, Denise Correll, Sydney Jeffcoat and Terri Bell.

Pam House, Corlis Simmons, Jesse Monzingo and Brandi Keller were absent.

Gene Fisseler, President, notified members of the meeting and agenda via email on June 22, 2024. All meeting participants could communicate with each other via Zoom.

Gene called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Lisa announced the quorum requirement was established, with 12 of 16 Board members present.

Gene reviewed the agenda.

Review and approval of minutes:

The minutes of the May Board meeting emailed to the Board by Lisa were offered for discussion. **A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Mohammed to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.**

Officer Reports:

- **President (Gene Fisseler)**
- Gene reported to the Board that Brandi and Tammy recently found a box of awards for the 2020- and 2021-year end celebrations that had not been distributed due to COVID. He has delivered the awards to their recipients. Additionally, both Tom Solomon and Jim Duron have received their 30,000-hour awards. He also reported that he attended a recent TMN President's meeting and information was shared regarding changes to the Volunteer Management System. He also learned that the State Annual Meeting agenda is scheduled to be distributed sometime next week. The registration window will open in August for the event. The state is requesting that each Chapter submit 10 photographs of Chapter activities from this year to be included in a slide show at the Annual Meeting. He also reported that he completed and submitted our Chapter's response on the training class survey. Finally, Gene shared that the state has asked our Chapter to participate in the TMN Tuesday program on July 9 by sharing a 10-minute presentation on our upcoming beach

cleanup event, GetBACKTogether. Mary and Chloe Dannenfelser will create a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation for the program.

- **Vice President (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary reported that planning for the August Chapter meeting is complete. Suzanne Simpson will be our guest speaker. Her presentation topic is "Wild Houston." Because Mary will be out of town, Mark Phillips will be the speaker liaison. Additionally, Laura Clark will give a brief update on the bat project. Mary informed the Board that the Annual Financial Records Review is lacking committee members' signatures, which she will obtain soon. She then reminded the Class Representatives that the table decorations for the December meeting are the responsibility of the new class. Finally, she inquired whether the New Class Representatives would be interested in planning a spring 2025 field trip to the Big Thicket National Preserve. They happily agreed to take on this task.

- **Secretary (Lisa Hardcastle)**

Lisa reported that she is working on the password project and hopes to have it completed soon. She shared that Meade has been a huge help with the project.

- **Treasurer (Meade LeBlanc)**

Meade shared the financial report with Board members electronically prior to the meeting. She reviewed the report, highlighting the approved budget amounts and the year-to-date spending. She reminded Board members of the need to utilize funds that the Board has budgeted prior to the end of the fiscal year. She also shared a spreadsheet of "Temporarily Restricted Contributions" which are funds that must be used for specific projects. To make the money useful to the community, Gene suggested reaching out to the organizations listed in the spreadsheet and discuss what they need. Finally, Meade mentioned the GBAC Expense Guidelines draft. Gene proposed we delay taking action until the next Board meeting, allowing members time to review it.

Mary made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Lisa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gene introduced a discussion on a financial sponsorship to the TMN State Annual Meeting. **Sharon made a motion to approve a \$1,000.00 sponsorship. Mohammed seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Director Reports

- **Advanced Training (Mike Petitt)**

Mike shared his report with Board members prior to the meeting. There were three Advanced Training sessions in June. He reported that the *Texas Dragonflies* presentation was excellent, and we may want to have the speaker, Wizzie Brown, again. Future events include *Thirteen Things You Need to Know About Poison Ivy* on July 10, *Owls of the Upper Texas Coast* on July 17, Chapter meeting presentation on August 1 and a presentation by a speaker from the Meadows Center on September 11. Additionally, the book club is completing their discussion of *How the Mountains Grew* on July 8.

- **Communication (Mary Dobberstine)**

Mary announced that the Chapter's photo contest is open. Two judges are from the community and two are from within the Chapter.

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

Mohammed has met with other Chapter DEI Directors and the group has proposed a session for the State Meeting. The Juneteenth outreach event was successful with more than 230 visitors stopping at the GBAC booth. Upcoming events include Moody Gardens World Insect Day and the ABNC Fall Festival.

- **Membership (Tracy Walpole)**

Tracy's report, shared with Board members prior to the meeting, reflects 264 active Chapter members and 21 "in training". Of the 31 members initially starting the 2024 Spring Training Class, 27 have finished course work and 12 have certified. The year-to-date Volunteer Service hours and Advanced Training hours indicate that they are in-line with last year's hours. Milestone achievements include one member reaching 2,500 hours, two reaching 250 hours, three reaching 500 hours and one reaching 1,000 hours. She and Patty have been working to get everyone into the correct status and other changes in the Volunteer Management System but stated that most members will not notice the changes.

- **Outreach (Lisa Hardcastle)**

Lisa announced two successful outreach events in the past month and one upcoming event Seaside Safari, on July 27 at East Beach. She will be sending out a request for volunteers this week.

- **Training Class (Diane Humes)**

Diane reported that she has completed the second portion of the Training Class survey from the state office. The state requested names and addresses of presenters to have on hand to share in the event Chapters need speakers. After obtaining permission from our presenters, Diane shared the information.

- **Volunteer Service (Sharon Tirpak)**

Sharon reported that everything is running smoothly at this time and questions have slowed down. She is already thinking ahead in preparation for reviewing and adding new opportunities in the future. She will establish a committee to assist with this task.

Other Reports

- **New Class Representatives (Denise Correll, Sydney Jeffcoat and Terri Bell)**

Terri introduced herself and shared that, despite being an alternate Class Representative, she is excited to be involved in the Board. Denise and Sydney have sent an email to their classmates encouraging them to certify.

Old (unfinished) Business

- Lisa reported that the School Bird Club would like to use budgeted funds to purchase additional binoculars, guidebooks, and composition notebooks. Gene stated that overall, the Board has demonstrated its support of the expenditure but suggested sharing more specific information with the Board prior to purchasing anything.

New Business

- There was none.

Announcements

- Diane announced that the next edition of the Midden will be coming out soon, so if anyone has anything to submit, please send it to her as soon as possible.

There being no further business, Mike made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Hardcastle