

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2018
Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:07 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Ellen Gerloff, Janet Mason, Julie Massey, Jo Monday, Andrea Stromeyer, Lynn Wright and Patty Trimmingham.

George discussed safety of the building and the fire evacuation route; location of fire extinguishers and AED devices.

Old Business

1. January Board Meeting Minutes
 - a. The minutes of the January 2018 board meeting were reviewed.
 - b. Discussion on who would be sending the email regarding the explanation of hospitality (page 2 Grow Hospitality, 4f).
 - i. Tim will talk with Penny and compose an explanation for the email
 - ii. George will approve it before it goes out
 - c. Regarding item 2c (page 2, Announcements at Chapter meeting). Ellen wanted to clarify what she was saying.
 - i. She didn't want to change the time of the meeting or dinner
 - ii. If people want to come in and socialize, perhaps they can arrive at 6:15pm
 - iii. The Master Gardeners will be in the room until 5-5:15pm on the day of our next Chapter meeting
 - iv. Julie will word the invite in such a way to invite members to come early if they want to socialize
 - d. Tim asked that the minutes be amended on page 1, item 1b under 2018 goals, to reflect "Constant Contact" instead of "Direct Contact".
 - e. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Julie, seconded by Tim. Motion was passed.
2. 20th Anniversary Project Update (Tim)
 - a. It was a slow start, but good progress has been made
 - b. Several interviews have been held (George, Tim, Sara, Jim, Maureen) and more are scheduled

New Business

1. Eel Mop project - George is going to organize a meeting regarding the Eel Mop project.
 - a. Ideally we should have one monitoring station on the North side and one on the South side.
2. iNaturalist - George is going to encourage participation
 - a. There is an AT on April 6th for 30 people
 - b. This is a city challenge that is held in late April for 96 hours
3. The 64 acre park in Bacliff is moving slow, but still moving
 - a. Galveston County has the funding in place and construction of the has begun
 - b. It is located between Edgewater by the Bay and Chase Park subdivisions

4. Junior Master Naturalists
 - a. Discussion on the program, what and where it is.
 - b. It's taught at Environmental Institute of Houston-UHCL
 - c. Shelia Brown leads the training for fifth graders
 - d. They have a graduation ceremony at the conclusion of the program
 - e. Julie will invite George to the graduation ceremony

2018 Goal Updates

1. Communications (Tim)
 - a. Tim has scheduled a meeting for the communications team on March 20th.
 - a. We will decide how to solicit help
 - b. Dorothy Hall has survey results from a few years back that might be useful
 - b. Everything is going very well.
 - a. Maureen is handing the outside media
 - b. Tim is back up to Alan for Constant Contact
 - c. The Coast magazine had several articles featuring our members.
 - a. Penny is going to write a thank you note to the magazine
 - d. The web site still needs some updates.
2. Non-traditional Audiences (Julie)
 - a. Scott Bell and James Langley will be presenting an overview of the Master Naturalist Training at the Texas Department of Corrections Ellis Unit Horticulture Program at the April meeting.
 - b. Brazoria has a similar program.
 - c. Julie will discuss with UHCL.
3. Emeritus Program (Janet)
 - a. Janet talked to Julie and Jim.
 - b. She is waiting on the report of names from Jim.
4. Grow Hospitality Role (George for Penny)
 - a. George informed the Midden team about the hospitality role.
 - b. Penny is making good progress.
5. Leadership (Julie/George)
 - a. She would like someone who will have the time and be dedicated.
 - b. Julie will ask for feedback when she find a good candidate.
 - c. Julie asked everyone to send her names of any TPWD person who might be a good fit.
6. Continue to Grow VMS (Patty for Jim)
 - a. Jim gave Dorothy, Patty and Andrea an overview of the VMS system.
 - b. Dorothy will be the one to approve Jim's hours.
 - c. Jim will make assignments when he returns.

7. State Bylaw Changes (All)

- a. Lynn has been comparing Chapter Bylaws and Operating Handbook with the State Master Naturalist documents.
- b. Julie and George will help review the differences.
- c. Lynn will bring the list of changes to the next board meeting.
- d. Due date for this activity is June.

Board Reports

President (G. Kyame)

1. George will attempt to schedule an eel mop 'party'. He will email the members to solicit interested members.

Vice President/State Representative (T. Long)

1. Send Tim any speaker ideas.
 - a. Teresa Morris - Microplastics
 - b. Ranger Lisa - "How to Give a Nature Presentation"
2. Tim was contacted by Marathon Oil to speak about the bird transport project. He will go speak to them soon.
 - a. Julie reported that we have worked with Marathon in the past.

Secretary (P. Trimmingham)

1. Patty thanked Janet for taking meeting minutes at the January meeting during her absence.

Treasurer (L. Wright)

1. February Treasurer's report was presented to the board. Balance sheet in good shape.
2. Received \$500 from Exxon on behalf of Jesus Suarez (new volunteer match).
3. Checks from current class tuition have not been deposited. Julie will get them to Lynn.
 - a. There are 5 scholarships in the current class
 - b. They have to pay 50% of the class fees
4. Patty made motion to accept February financials as presented. Janet seconded. Motion passed.

Membership (J. Duron) Not present to report

1. 2017 Final report was handed out and reviewed.
 - a. Direct numbers were down
 - b. Volunteer hours were up from previous year
2. 2018 report was reviewed
 - a. 16 have already recertified
 - b. 216 have paid dues
3. Jim will work on the 2018 directory upon his return from vacation.

Class Representatives (J. Mason, A. Stromeyer)

1. Nothing to report.

AT Director (E. Gerloff)

1. 5 AT sponsored events coming up.
2. Discussion around having a basic first aid course.
 - a. Price would be \$35, \$20 for a card
 - b. 20-30 seats would be available
 - c. Ellen to pursue having a course in the July time frame

Volunteer Services (J. Monday)

1. 2018 class members are already requesting opportunities in VMS.
 - a. There have only been 2 absences from the 3 classes. These were due to prior commitments
 - b. Jim gave an excellent VMS overview
 - c. There was good discussion on recording direct outreach numbers
2. Discussion on the Teachers workshop (Treasurers of the Bay) budget.
 - a. Sara submitted a grant, but she didn't get it
 - b. Workshop might have to be cut a day due to funding (June 19-22)
 - c. Motion to allocate an additional \$2,000 for the Teachers Workshop by Jo.
Seconded by Patty.
 - i. Additional discussion: the workshop was not held last year so money is there
 - ii. It's important that boat trips are included in the workshop; boat trips are expensive.
 - d. Jo amended her motion to allocate not more than \$4,000 for the workshop.
Janet seconds. Motion passes.
 - e. This would bring the total budget for the workshop to \$5,750
 - f. There needs to be at least 15 teachers registered or the workshop will be cancelled

Chapter Sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Galveston Bay Plan is up for comments through April 4th.
2. Julie will send an email with the link to the report.

Next board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018, at Carbide, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Janet to adjourn at 4:10 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Trimmingham