

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 29, 2018**  
**Texas AgriLife Building Classroom 2 – Carbide Park**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:01 pm.

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Ellen Gerloff, Janet Mason, Julie Massey, Jo Monday, Lynn Wright, Jim Duron, Patty Trimmingham, Andrea Stromeyer, Robin Kendrick-Yates, Susette Mahaffey and Mike Petitt

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

George welcomed the new class reps and alternate. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Old Business**

1. May Board Meeting Minutes
  - a. The minutes of the May 1, 2018 board meeting were reviewed, no changes.
  - b. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Tim. Motion was passed.
  
2. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project Update (Tim)
  - a. The project is complete.
  - b. We submitted about 12 videos.
  - c. Dick Benoit will be videoed in the near future.
  
3. Project of the Year ideas (George)
  - a. Discussion regarding building a strike force to tackle a project such as the small wetlands garden at the Challenger 7 Park.
    - i. Needs are general maintenance, invasive species removal, trail maintenance.
    - ii. A project plan would need to be created and approved by the board.
    - iii. Julie explained that GBAC used to do a project of the month, which had AT attached to it. It was short termed.
  - b. One thing that makes project of the year stand out is the data that is/has been collected and the use of social media.
  - c. No determination was made at this time.
  - d. Tim noted that he turned in a request to do a presentation at the state conference regarding the injured bird project.

### **New Business**

1. Santa Fe High School (George)
  - a. Discussion of ideas on how we might be able to help Santa Fe.
    - i. We should do something we are good at.
    - ii. Possibly pay for buses for a trip to Galveston Island State Park in the fall.
    - iii. Superintendent would have to be contacted.
    - iv. Everyone needs to think of ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

2. Scholarships (George)
  - a. GBAC usually provides some college assistance to a young adult who has shown an interest in our projects such as helping at Camp Wild.
  - b. We have a \$1,500 budget for scholarships this year.
  - c. Julie has heard of two people who might apply. She is waiting to see who actually does.
3. Teacher Workshop (Julie)
  - a. The workshop is a mini Master Naturalist class for 22 teachers over 4 days.
  - b. A minimum of 16 is needed to hold the class.
  - c. The workshop will not be held this year because we only had 12 applications which isn't cost effective.
  - d. For the 12 who applied, Julie directed them to other workshops and told them about other resources.
  - e. Discussion regarding how we can do better next year.
    - i. Find out teacher interests beforehand.
    - ii. Save some seats at AT for teachers.
    - iii. Advertise to the schools early to allow time for planning/budgeting.
    - iv. See if we can offer it as an in-service during the school year.

## **Board Reports**

### President (G. Kyame)

1. George thanked the 2017 class reps for all their work and presented them with orchids.
  - a. Janet is going to head the 2019 training class which is a board seat.
2. George reminded everyone about Camp Wild, June 4-8.
3. Nancy Saint and George will probably be presenting a session on pollinators at the Unity church like they did last year.
4. Discussion on capturing our accomplishments each year.
  - a. We need one list that is easy to find.
  - b. It would be nice if the list was on the web.
  - c. The communication team will discuss this at their next meeting in June.

### Vice President/State Representative (T. Long)

1. Tim has a speaker for the June meeting. The topic will be dragon and damsel flies.
2. He is still looking for a speaker for August.
3. Theresa Morrison will talk about micro plastics at the October meeting.

### Secretary (P. Trimmingham)

1. Patty reported that EIH had a nice retirement lunch for Shelia Brown.

### Treasurer (L. Wright)

1. Lynn explained what the Statement of Financial Position and State of Activities reports were for.
2. May Treasurer's report was presented to the board.
3. Balance sheet is in good shape. We are very conservative.
4. Tim made a motion to accept May financials as presented. Jo seconded. Motion passed.

### Membership (J. Duron)

1. May 2018 volunteer hours are nearly equal with May 2017 hours.
2. Contact hours are better than last year.
3. 224 members, 77 recertification's, 176 have logged at least 1 hour.

4. 2018 Training class is doing well.
  - a. 18 of them have logged 2200 hours.
  - b. The new class has logged over 600 hours of AT so far.

#### AT Director (E. Gerloff)

1. Upcoming scheduled AT classes.
  - a. July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1-3:30: Plants Are Precious, Emmeline Dodd
  - b. Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – noon: Ecology 101, Cindy Howard
  - c. Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:30: Archeology of the Upper Gulf Coast
  - d. Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – noon: Ecology 102, Cindy Howard (tentative)
  - e. Jan 2019 – Movie “Green Fire” followed by discussion
2. There has been plenty of AT opportunities this year.
  - a. Members can also get AT hours at the State convention, GBAC meetings and NPSOT meetings.

#### Volunteer Services (J. Monday)

1. Modules 3-6 for Bay Adventures will be held Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>.
2. Question regarding who/how to record impact hours for Camp Wild.
  - a. Impacts/contacts should be logged by the leader of each team.
  - b. Each team should discuss who will be the one(s) logging the contacts so that everyone is on the same page.

#### Class Representatives (J. Mason, A. Stromeyer, S. Mahaffey, R. Kendrick-Yates, M. Pettit)

1. Janet said she enjoyed serving on the board and learned a lot.
2. Andrea enjoyed working on the board and hopes to have an opportunity again.
3. Susette would like to make a positive impact, appreciates the opportunity to serve.
4. Robin looked forward to serving on the board.
5. Mike appreciates the opportunity to serve.

#### Chapter Sponsor (J. Massey)

1. This year the Camp Wild training regarding child protection was recorded.
  - a. Julie was impressed with the quality.
  - b. It can be emailed to those who missed the training.
  - c. Perhaps we can record future presentations.
2. Julie read a letter from the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council (GINTC) thanking GBAC for supporting Featherfest.
  - a. 700 attended, representing 31 states and 4 countries.
  - b. There were 102 activities and 246 bird species were identified.
  - c. Next year's event will be April 11-14, 2019.
  - d. It is estimated that the tourists have an average spend of \$400/night.
  - e. The event was very successful due in part to all the GBAC volunteers.
3. Julie mentioned that the May “Science night with 4-H” was cancelled due to the Santa Fe incident. GBAC usually has members who assist with the event.
  - a. 62 youth had signed up to attend.
  - b. It's a fun event that the kids really enjoy.
  - c. Sept 13 and Oct 30 are the next two scheduled science nights.

Motion was made enthusiastically by Tim and seconded by Janet to adjourn at 4:04 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Trimmingham