

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2018
Texas AgriLife Building Volunteer Room – Carbide Park

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

Present: George Kyame, Tim Long, Ellen Gerloff, Julie Massey, Lynn Wright, Jim Duron, Patty Trimmingham, Susette Mahaffey and Mike Pettitt

George welcomed everyone to the first meeting of summer and went over the safety of the building, the fire evacuation route, location of fire extinguishers and AED devices.

Julie announced that it was Jim Duron's birthday and presented him with a gift. We had extra snacks in celebration of Jim's special day.

The Planet Stewards workshop for teachers was being held in the building this week.

- There were 5 free spots for Master Naturalists.
- It was decided that the Master Naturalists attending will receive AT hours equal to the teacher's CPE credits of 30 hours.
- Ellen will send an email to the attending Master Naturalists to explain to them how to log the hours. Julie M., Jim D., Patty T. and Dorothy H. will be copied to reduce confusion when the hours are approved.

Old Business

1. May 29th Board Meeting Minutes
 - a. The minutes of the May 29, 2018 board meeting were reviewed. One minor change under the president's report #3. Change the sentence to reflect 'George and Nancy will **probably** do another presentation at the Unity church.
 - b. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Lynn, seconded by Tim. Motion was passed.

New Business

1. Texas Master Naturalist Endowment Auction (Julie)
 - a. TXMN will be having a fund raising event Oct 25, 2018 to raise funds for the endowment.
 - b. Julie and Mary Pearl came up with an idea to auction off a "Master Naturalist experience".
 - i. GBAC would host 2-6 people on a Monday-Wednesday in April/May 2019 at GSIP.
 - ii. Two nights in the Stewart house to include a dinner and snacks.
 - iii. GBAC members would perhaps take them possibly on a kayak trip, hike, birding, to the turtle barns and/or other experiences
 - c. We already have budgeted \$300 to donate to the State Conference.
 - i. This auction item would be in lieu of our normal donation.
 - ii. A portion will be paid now to reserve the Stewart house; the rest will be budgeted and paid out in 2019.

- d. Motion made by Tim to provide an auction item for the TXMN endowment event where our chapter, with the support of our members, will host 2-6 people at GISP in April/May of 2019 at a cost not to exceed \$1000. Seconded by Mike. Motion passed.
- 2. National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpreters Workshop (Julie)
 - a. Also known as NNOCCI, Julie took the training in 2016. It's very intense.
 - b. The 2018 workshop will be hosted here – the week of Oct 15th.
 - c. Twenty two participants from across the Nation will attend for 4 days.
 - d. GBAC members will be asked to help with kayaking and other activities.
 - e. Motion by Susette for GBAC to support the NNOCCI workshop in October 2018 with Julie as our liaison. Seconded by Tim. Motion passed.
- 3. Proposed Revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook (Lynn)
 - a. Lynn explained three documents that GBAC operates under.
 - i. Bylaws - The state gives us a template that we have to comply with. Very few changes are allowed.
 - ii. Chapter Management and Operations Protocols (CMOP) – The state made some changes to in 2017. We have to comply with it.
 - iii. Chapter Operating Handbook (COH). Our chapter last updated in 2015. There are new changes that the State would like us to adopt. We want to be as close to the States version without affecting the integrity of the Chapter.
 - b. Everyone needs to review the proposed COH, especially their section and give feedback to Lynn by July 25th so that we can review at the next board meeting.
 - c. Lynn was commended on her work in getting the information to the board.
- 4. Next board meeting (Patty)
 - a. The next board meeting will be July 31st since our Chapter meeting is August 2nd.
 - b. Patty will schedule the meeting room.

Board Reports

President (G. Kyame)

- 1. Eel Mops project - George hopes to get this started soon.
- 2. Swift towers – Locations at Exploration Green have been determined.
 - a. George will put out an email for people to help build the towers.
 - b. Supplies will be delivered to Exploration Green.
 - c. Towers will be put in Phase I, sections A and C.

Vice President/State Representative (T. Long)

- 1. Tim has a speaker for the August meeting.
 - a. It will be Ranger Lisa speaking about how to give interpretation talks.
- 2. Theresa Morris will talk about micro plastics at the October meeting.

Secretary (P. Trimmingham)

- 1. Patty passed around a document she started for tracking GBAC accomplishments.
- 2. Julie will email Patty some additions.
- 3. The document could be posted on the website.

Treasurer (L. Wright)

- 1. Lynn reviewed the preliminary Statement of Financial Position and preliminary Statement of Activities reports. They were preliminary reports since we are still in June.

2. There were very few transactions.
3. We pay sales tax at the end of the year.
4. Volunteer matching donations are going well.
 - a. Received \$1,500 from Exxon on behalf of Vervra Densmore.
 - b. Texas Instrument is still outstanding – Lynn to get with Larry Brasfield.
 - c. We might end up with \$500 ahead of the budget in this category.
5. Balance sheet is in good shape.
6. Patty made a motion to accept June preliminary financials as presented. Susette seconded. Motion passed.

Membership (J. Duron)

1. June 2018 volunteer hours are about 700 hours ahead of June 2017 hours.
 - a. Nearly 24,000 hours reported this year.
2. We have nearly 1600 contact hours this year.
 - a. Members are doing a better job reporting them.
3. No pins earned in June.
4. 2 new certifications.
5. 225 active members, 98 recertification's, 179 have logged at least 1 hour.
 - a. 8 recertification's since the last report.
6. 2018 Training class is doing well.
 - a. 3 have not reported any hours.
 - i. Jim will discuss with class reps.
 - ii. He knows a few of them have volunteered for opportunities.
 - b. There is one class member who hasn't completed the class portion.
 - i. He should complete it the class portion this week.
 - ii. He has enough volunteer hours to get the initial pin as well as the recert pin.

AT Director (E. Gerloff)

1. Ellen reported no changes to the upcoming scheduled AT classes other than a different movie might be shown in January.
 - a. July 12th , 1-3:30: Plants Are Precious, Emmeline Dodd.
 - b. Aug 4th , 9:30 – noon: Ecology 101, Cindy Howard.
 - c. Sept 8th , 9:30-12:30: Archeology of the Upper Gulf Coast.
 - d. Nov 17th , 9:30 – noon: Ecology 102, Cindy Howard (tentative).
 - e. Jan. 2019 – A movie will be shown, possibly “Green Fire” or one on “Straws” followed by discussion.

Volunteer Services (J. Monday)

1. Not present to report.

Class Representatives (S. Mahaffey, M. Pettit)

1. Nothing to report.

Chapter Sponsor (J. Massey)

1. We have begun opening seats for teachers at our advanced trainings.
2. Galveston County Parks is starting a new project in Bacliff.
 - a. It will be for a one year commitment.
 - b. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will need to be signed by the board after Dr. Johnson reviews and approves it.
 - c. The board could give their approval via email.

3. Julie encouraged us to watch the TEDx talk on Straws by Molly Steer.
 - a. Molly speaks about her project “Straws no more”.
 - b. We might show a movie regarding the straws issue instead of “Green Fire” in January 2019.

Wrap Up (George)

George mentioned that he was contacted by Joanie Steinhaus to see if GBAC wants to co-sponsor a turtle statue. “Turtles About Town” is a public art project that will feature the Kemp’s Ridley turtle in numerous locations throughout the City, each with a different theme. We will discuss this at the next board meeting.

Motion was made enthusiastically by Tim and seconded by Lynn to adjourn at 4:06 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Trimmingham