

**Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 31, 2018**  
**Texas AgriLife Building Volunteer Room – Carbide Park**

The meeting was called to order by George Kyame at 2:05 pm.

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

George welcomed everyone and went over the safety of the building, the fire evacuation route, location of fire extinguishers and AED devices. He mentioned that Tim Long was out of town on vacation with family.

**Old Business**

1. June 26th Board Meeting Minutes (George)
  - a. The minutes of the June 26, 2018 board meeting were reviewed.
  - b. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Susette. Motion was passed.
2. Proposed revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) and Bylaws (Lynn)
  - a. The board reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws and the COH. The State requires that all Chapters use the same template for Bylaws. The COH is specific to each chapter.
  - b. Some additional changes were discussed as a result of the Board's review of the June 26<sup>th</sup> proposed COH including but not limited to:
    - i. Moving the duties regarding the New Class application process and managing the mentor program from the Membership Director to the New Class Director.
    - ii. Keeping Historian/Archivist outlined in the State's COH template as a committee in the Chapter's COH. Lynn offered to lead it.
  - c. Motion by Ellen to send the corrected documents to the chapter members for review, Susette seconded. Motion passed with unanimous vote.
  - d. Lynn will create a clean copy of both documents with the suggested changes.
  - e. Documents will be emailed to chapter members and posted on the website for members to review.
  - f. Members with questions will be invited to attend the September 4, 2018 board meeting to discuss.
  - g. Changes will be voted on at the October or December chapter meeting.

**New Business**

1. Turtles About Town Project (George)
  - a. No one has said anything else to George regarding a donation. Topic will be dropped for now.
2. 2018 Photo Contest (George)
  - a. Contest is open, everyone encouraged to participate.
  - b. George encouraged the 2018 class reps to promote/inform their class.
3. 20,000 Volunteer service hours update (Jim)

- a. Jim informed the board that as of Sunday, our chapter has the second person in the state to earn his 20,000 service award(Tom Solomon). The first person was someone in the North Texas chapter.
  - b. Jim proposed to TXMN that they waive the fees for Tom to attend the state conference to receive his award.
  - c. TXMN said they could waive the registration fee, but not the hotel fee.
  - d. Lynn motioned for GBAC to pay up to \$350 in hotel costs for Tom to attend the state conference. Susette seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4. Financial Aid for conference (George)
    - a. TXMN will give one person from each chapter a \$75 discount to attend the state conference.
    - b. Last year we did not take advantage of this. Julie recommends we take advantage of it.
    - c. An email will be sent out to the chapter. George and Julie will decide from the responses who will get it.

## **Board Reports**

### President (G. Kyame)

1. TJ Fox lost his wife, Frankie, to cancer. The couple transferred into our chapter and was very active. Frankie will be missed.
2. George received an email regarding nominations for the TCEQ Environmental Excellence Award.
  - a. Competition is stiff.
  - b. Winners receive \$2,500.
  - c. George will put together a committee.

### Vice President/State Representative (G.Kyame for T. Long)

1. Ranger Lisa good to go for the chapter meeting this week.
2. Theresa Morris will talk about micro plastics at the October meeting.
3. Communication meeting was held.
4. Tentative meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss creating a communication survey.

### Secretary (P. Trimmingham)

1. Nothing to report.

### Treasurer (L. Wright)

1. Lynn reported she didn't have time to create the financial reports due to her extensive work on the COH and Bylaw revisions.
2. There were only two transactions in July.
  - a. Boxes to transport wounded birds.
  - b. Speaker gift.
3. Full financials will be reported at next meeting.

### Membership (J. Duron)

1. July 2018 volunteer hours are about 700 hours behind July 2017 hours.
  - a. Over 28,000 hours reported this year.
2. We have nearly 17,000 contact hours this year.
  - a. Members are doing a better job reporting them.
3. We have 230 active members (227 active members, + 3 lifetime).
  - a. 110 recertification's, 184 have logged at least 1 hour.
  - b. 12 recertification's since the last report.

4. One member with 20,000 hours.

#### AT Director (E. Gerloff)

1. Upcoming AT classes:
  - a. Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – noon: Ecology 101, Cindy Howard.
    - i. 60+ have registered, some teachers.
    - ii. Room will be set up after the chapter meeting.
  - b. Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-12:30: Archeology of the Upper Gulf Coast.
  - c. Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – noon: Ecology 102, Cindy Howard (tentative).
  - d. Jan. 2019 – A movie will be shown, possibly “Green Fire” or one on “Straws” followed by discussion.
2. They are starting to plan for January.

#### Volunteer Services (J. Monday)

1. Nothing to report.

#### Class Representatives (R. Kendrick-Yates, S. Mahaffey, M. Pettit)

1. Robin has started a kayak group as part of P3. They will focus on collecting trash before it gets to the gulf.
2. Robin was encouraged to contact Clear Creek Environmental (Mike Mize) as they do a lot of work on the bayous.

#### Chapter Sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Julie will be presenting at Sea Grant week in Portland, Oregon in September.
  - a. She asked us to send her pictures of Master Naturalists at work for her presentation.
  - b. The purpose of Sea Grant week is to bring attention to our efforts to higher level (National).
2. Julie explained that partners are organizations that we work with that give back to us (in speakers, facilities, etc.). It’s a win-win relationship.
  - a. TPWD uses all the MN hours to help apply for Federal Grants.
  - b. Some organizations want to use our MN hours in order to apply for grants.
    - i. For non-federal grants, hours can be used for both MN and the organization.
    - ii. For Federal grants, hours cannot be used for both MN (TPWD) and the partner.

Motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Ellen to adjourn at 4:13 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Trimmingham