

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists
Board Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2018
Texas AgriLife Building– Carbide Park

The meeting was called to order by Patty Trimmingham at 2:01 pm.

Present: Julie Massey, Jo Monday, Lynn Wright, Jim Duron, Patty Trimmingham, Susette Mahaffey, Robin Kendrick-Yates, Mike Petitt, Diane Humes, and Chatt Smith

George was out of town; Patty welcomed everyone and went over the safety of the building, the fire evacuation route, location of fire extinguishers and AED devices.

Old Business

1. July 31st Board Meeting Minutes (Patty)
 - a. The minutes of the July 31, 2018 board meeting were reviewed.
 - b. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn, seconded by Robin. Motion was passed.
2. Proposed revisions to the Chapter Operating Handbook (COH) and Bylaws (Lynn)
 - a. Lynn opened the floor for discussion on the proposed changes.
 - b. Chatt Smith went over his list of concerns regarding the CMOP, Bylaws, COH, Insurance, Background checks and Standards of Conduct. Points of note were:
 - i. BYLAWS: There are no term limits in the Bylaws, but the COH limits Board members to 3 consecutive terms in any one position and a maximum of 6 years on the Board. The Bylaws govern if the COH is in conflict.
 - ii. BYLAWS: Misuse of the term “malfeasance” in the section on removal of Officers.
 - iii. BYLAWS: It was noted the bylaws do not require board members to be Certified Master Naturalists at the time of election.
 - iv. CMOP: Page 14 Allows hours for webinars, how come we don't?
 - v. CMOP: Page 16 Insurance; it's unclear as to whether the board is covered and/or the members.
 - vi. CMOP: Page 18 Next to last item, implies that we can log hours for sitting on a board of another non-profit, which is contrary to what we were told early this year.
 - vii. CMOP: Page 32 It's unclear who manages the Texas Master Naturalists, who votes, and who creates the documents.
 - viii. COH: Page 7 The 9 directors were questioned. It was noted that we have several people holding multiple board (voting) positions. He questioned as to whether those would have multiple votes or just one.
 - ix. COH: Page 15, #4 under membership: The Hold Harmless sentence implied that you had to agree to release your photo.
 - x. Standards of Conduct: #12 mentions “Avoid all use of alcohol and controlled substances” but it doesn't mention avoiding use of illegal drugs.
 - c. Changes Lynn will look into:
 - i. Bylaws: Incorporating verbiage something like “All Board members must be Master Naturalist certified and in good standing at the time of election”.
 - ii. COH: Clarify that a board member may be appointed to more than one voting position, but they will only have one vote.

- iii. COH: Improve the wording regarding the hold harmless agreement.
- iv. The Communication team was inadvertently left out, it will be put back in.
- d. Since the members have to be given 30 days notice of the vote, we won't be able to vote on the changes at the October meeting.
- e. Lynn will come up with a strategy to be discussed at the next board meeting. Changes will hopefully be voted on at the December chapter meeting.

New Business

1. Donation for Armand Bayou (Lynn and Diane)
 - a. Armand Bayou (ABNC) is having their Prairie Pandemonium in October. This is a large event with many Master Naturalists volunteering.
 - b. It would be nice if we made a donation to this event.
 - c. Diane is thinking of purchasing reusable water bottles for the participants.
 - d. Motion by Lynn to donate \$250 to ABNC for use at Prairie Pandemonium. Seconded by Jo. Motion passed.
2. Discussion on moving time of board meetings (Patty)
 - a. Ellen brought up the idea of moving the start time of the board meetings to 1pm due to the construction on I45.
 - b. Motion by Jo to move the start time of the board meetings to 1pm beginning with the October 2018 board meeting. Lynn seconded. Motion passed.
3. Master Naturalists in the Tiki Island News (Lynn)
 - a. Lynn mentioned that there were three articles in the Tiki Island news written by our Master Naturalists.
 - i. Injured bird transport project
 - ii. Oyster gardening
 - iii. Sea Turtles

Board Reports

President (P. Trimmingham for G. Kyame)

1. There are two awards that our chapter should apply for.
 - a. TCEQ Environment Excellent Award and National Environmental Excellence Award.
 - b. George will appoint a committee for each.
2. Lynn mentioned that she saw an article in the paper regarding the Kempner grant.
 - a. She will give the information to Julie.

Vice President/State Representative (T. Long)

1. Not present to report

Secretary (P. Trimmingham)

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (L. Wright)

1. The August financial reports were presented.
 - a. Received \$3000 from Exxon on behalf of Jesus Suarez and Chuck Snyder.
 - i. Lynn sent a thank you to Exxon.
 - ii. George and Penny will send thank you notes to Jesus and Chuck.
 - b. Three more members paid their dues.
 - c. Income was \$3267.28
 - d. There were a few expense transactions totaling \$118.36.

- e. We are in good shape.
 - f. Motion to accept the August financial reports by Jo. Seconded by Robin. Motion passes.
2. Lynn will start working on the budget for 2019. She plans on getting with specific members to make sure money allocated is spent.
 3. Lynn mentioned that she will probably need to purchase a new laptop for the Treasurer. It could cost around \$1,500 with quick books installed.
 4. Jim will check to see if he as Membership Director needs a new laptop.

Membership (J. Duron)

1. Jim produced the Education outreach report for August.
 - a. 19,194 contact hours for the year
2. We have 231 active members (228 active members + 3 lifetime).
 - a. 123 recertification's, 184 have logged at least 1 hour.
3. New class is doing a great job.
 - a. 22 have reported at least one hour.
 - b. 18 have their initial certification.
 - c. 12 have recertified.

AT Director (P. Trimmingham for E. Gerloff)

1. Upcoming AT classes:
 - a. Sept 8th , 9:30-12:30: Archeology of the Upper Gulf Coast. Class is full with waiting list.
 - b. September 18 Audubon TERN & NICK team will do transect training. Contact is Maureen not Emmeline.
 - c. Nov 17th , 9:30 – noon: Ecology Matters! Part 2, Cindy Howard .

Volunteer Services (J. Monday)

1. Jo is reviewing the volunteer opportunity request form.

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

1. Susette reported the class met to determine what the December centerpieces will be.
2. They have started working on the centerpieces.

Chapter Sponsor (J. Massey)

1. Julie will be presenting at Sea Grant week in Portland, Oregon in two weeks.
 - a. The purpose of Sea Grant week is to bring attention to our efforts to higher level (National).
 - b. She has pictures, but welcomes more for her presentation.
2. The National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpreters Workshop (NNOCCI) will be October 17th . Our chapter is supporting the workshop with Julie as the liaison.
 - a. Twenty two participants from across the Nation will attend for 4 days. They will work to create tools for interpreting climate change.
 - b. Attendees will be learning about sea turtles, prairies, bayous and the Flower Gardens. GBAC members will be assisting.
 - c. They are interested in learning about the affect of Harvey on commercial fishing.
 - d. The organization will be giving us a check to pay for the activities up front.

Motion was made by Robin and seconded by Lynn to adjourn at 3:57 pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Patty Trimmingham