

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists

March Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2019

Texas AgriLife at Carbide Park

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

The board members present were George Kyame, Cindy Liening, Lynn Wright, Susette Mahaffey, Julie Massey, Janet Mason, Mike Pettitt, Patty Trimmingham, Jo Monday, Ellen Gerloff, Maureen Nolan-Wilde. This represents 92% of the board.

George began with the question of anyone needing him to go over the safety information. He has gone over it every meeting for 2+ years, and he would forego that part of the meeting if it met with everyone's approval. George welcomed everyone and said that he had spent his morning working with freshmen and sophomores who are at risk at the Longhorn Project.

Old Business:

1. Julie suggested that the minutes from February be accepted. George asked that there be a change about the Glo Green event. The change has been made. Maureen made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction made by George, and Janet seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Maureen asked about the Emeritus program and transfers. Patty has assigned transfer members and returning members mentors. Maureen told the group that we had 5 people volunteer to be mentors for returning members and transfer members. Penny Bessire is overseeing the new process. Patty has a list of people who might want to return and become a part of the Emeritus program. The goal is that you are never a stranger to the group and are always welcome.
3. Julie spoke about the winner of the GISP gala that was auctioned at the state convention. He is a Master Naturalist with the Coastal Prairie chapter in Rosenberg. He is particularly interested in seeing birds. The money to cover this event on April 29 & 30 at the Stewart House was set aside in last year's budget.
4. Cindy talked about identifying new leaders. She has looked through 2018 & 2019 new class member applications for possible leaders. Julie suggested that we have a small committee to look for members to serve in future leadership positions. She suggested the committee might be those involved in the past nominations committee and should begin the process in May to court possible candidates.
This concluded the old business.

New Business:

1. Maureen said that when people expressed an interest in becoming a Master Naturalist, we need to email Julie or Patty. Julie keeps a master list and mails out a letter to invite them to a meeting and visit our website.
2. George has had emails from other chapters who have asked about our chapter. A member of the Hill Country Chapter has asked him how we run our chapter. It might be good for us to reach out to other chapters, especially in our area.

The new business was concluded.

Board Reports:

1. George had nothing else to report beyond what he had shared.
2. Cindy reported that the monofilament team would be presenting the program for the April meeting. The June meeting will be presented by Dr. Jergens who is an assistant professor of biology at Texas A&M. She is new to the Gulf; as she is from the San Francisco area.
3. Susette made a plug for volunteers for Camp Wild. The preparations are underway for this year's camp experience.
She asked about the June board meeting which conflicts with those who volunteer at Camp Wild. Lynn made a motion that we move the June meeting to May 28th. Maureen seconded the motion, and it passed. This will mean that we will have two board meetings in May.
Julie proposed we cancel the July 2nd board meeting and move the August meeting to July 30th. Mike made the motion to have the July/August board meeting on July 30th, and Lynn seconded the motion. The motion passed. We will go back to the regular schedule in September.
4. Lynn went through the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Activities. The Dolphin Challenge monies were spent in February to cover that event. The rest of the statements reflect normal chapter needs and expenditures. The chapter is in good financial condition.
Patty made the motion to accept the financial report with Cindy seconding the motion. The motion passed.
5. Patty reported that 206 members have paid their dues for this year with 20 members still outstanding. She has the final numbers for 2017 and 2018 volunteer hours and AT training hours. We have 228 active members with 200 either inactive or deceased. She has the VMS information prepared to share with the new class on Thursday and is working on the website to add new information.
6. Jo reported that her committee is made up of Susette Mahaffey and Frank Budney. They will meet tomorrow, March 6th.
7. Ellen reported on the AT committee. She said that the presentations on Monarch Butterflies and Diurnal Raptors were well received and attended. The following are what are scheduled for the future:
 - Introduction to iNaturalist by Scott Buckel. Friday March 29. 1:00 – 3:30. 2.5 hours AT. Limit 30. Invitation to chapter by Alan/Constant Contact.

- Ecology Still Matters – Part 3 by Dr. Cindy Howard. Saturday April 6. 9:30 – noon. 2.5 hours AT. UHCL Bayou Bldg. Room 3332. Signups are continuing.
- Beginners Guide to Solitary Bees by Mel Measles & Rick Becker. Saturday April 27. 9:00 – 12:30. 3.5 hours AT. Cost \$15.00. Limit 20. Signup starts at April chapter meeting.
- Green Fire movie & discussion: Life & Work of Aldo Leopold. Wednesday August 14. 9:30 – noon. 2.5 hours AT. Limit 50. Signups start at June chapter meeting.

George asked what the policy for people outside the chapter is to attend AT. Ellen said that the AT was reserved for chapter members first, then open to others.

8. Janet reported that roads had been closed around Sheldon Lake when the last training class was scheduled. She is not yet sure if or how it will be made up. The next class will be at the Texas City Prairie Preserve.
9. Maureen reported that on average there were 375 people who look at the Facebook posts. There were 780 who looked at the ones about Greg Hall.
Our chapter images are kept in Smug Mug. We have 8,500 pictures in our data base. The goal is to post pictures from all chapter activities. Chapter members will be able to search by key words, topics, and some names. The pictures are being used for education and outreach by Sea Grant, Audubon Texas, GISP, and Texas A&M. You can print off the pictures rather than ordering them.
10. Mike had no report.
11. Julie said that we needed more chairs for different events. She would make the budget request, but it would not be done right away.
Dolphin Challenge was a wonderful experience. They are discussing hosting the 2020 nationals for Dolphin Challenge.
In April there will be a site review from Sea grant. This happens every 4 years.
She is meeting with Chris Marshall who is involved with sea turtles. He has a federal permit to work with sea turtles and wants to form a partnership with us to support the work. There will be more information about this in the future.
The Master Gardener are hosting a movie called “Five Seasons the Gardens of Piet Oudolf” on March 12th. She encouraged board members to attend.

George asked if there was anything else to report. Maureen moved to adjourn the meeting with Lynn seconding the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03.