

Galveston Bay Area Master Naturalists

May 28th Board Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2019

Texas AgriLife at Carbide Park

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m.

The board members present were George Kyame, Lynn Wright, Susette Mahaffey, Janet Mason, Robin Kendrick-Yates, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimmingham, Jo Monday, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Monica Duran, and Cindy Saxenian. This represents 69% of the board. Julie Massey, Cindy Liening, Ellen Gerloff, Tiffany Cummings, and Luxie Mohammed were absent. We had Sandy Parker and Stennie Meadours join us for the meeting.

George welcomed everyone on a warm afternoon. He remarked that lately he had been eschewing some of the safety information. He went through the location of the restrooms, AED devices, fire extinguishers and route to exit in case of a fire. He then thanked Robin and Mike for their service on the board. He welcomed our two new class representatives, Monica Duran and Tiffany Cummings. He also recognized the alternates, Cindy Saxenian and Luxie Mohammed. He said that the new class representatives get two votes; therefore, the two who are here today get to vote. In case both representatives are present, the alternates do not vote.

Old Business:

1. The minutes with the corrections that were sent to Susette were approved. Lynn made the motion and Maureen seconded it. The motion passed.
2. The discussion of the Bayside Regional Park MOU was resumed. Sandy and Stennie were present to tell the board about the project and answer questions. Stennie had a map of the 64-acre park that had once been a fish farm. The entrance is on 10th Street and has 3 wetland areas that are maintained by the Dickinson School District. The county maintains the 64-acre park. The MOU was negotiated last year and needs to be signed by George. It will then go to the County Commissioner's Court. Once they sign the MOU, the year begins. At the end of the year, there is an opportunity to renew the MOU if there is work left to do. A project manager will be appointed once the MOU is signed. Stennie had pictures of the park and the area in question. Sandy had an outline of the plan for the acre to be restored. The Native Plant Society has offered to help and volunteer hours for the project. George said that he envisioned 750-gallon pots of grasses to be planted first and then followed with the forbes. Lynn clarified that at the end of the year period, we could extend the MOU. She said that we would need to set aside funds for a budget. George will approach the Volunteer Services Committee with the project and then move forward. He asked Sandy to send him a clean copy of the proposal to sign.
3. Stennie spoke about the Plastics Pollution Partnership and the P3 plans for a symposium. There was a symposium for P3 last year, and the group wants to have the 2nd annual P3 Symposium in Galveston this year. She wanted to know if the chapter would be able to

accept funds contributed for the symposium. Lynn said that the chapter had done that in the past. She would just need to set up a category for those funds. Stennie asked who would sign a contract if it needs to be signed. George would be that person. The symposium would be on October 29th at Moody Gardens. It will be a one-day event which will be sponsored by Galveston Bay Foundation, Galveston Bay Estuary, NOAA, the Houston Zoo, and other organizations. It would explore the areas of research, solutions, and public policy. There is a need to gather donations to cover the cost of the symposium and to call for proposals for presentations.

4. Susette reminded the board that the next meeting would be July 30th at Texas City Prairie Preserve. This meeting will cover both the July and August board meetings.
5. Susette told the board the organizational meeting for Treasures of the Bay was held May 21st. The agenda was reviewed, and volunteers were asked to sign up for the areas in which they were interested. That project is ready to go!

New Business:

1. George asked about the Project of the Year. The last chapter entry received first place, and we have won in years past. Maureen thinks that the project should be the Great Monofilament Tube Adventure. We have pictures, data, a formal organized team to oversee the project – all the necessary components to be a winning project. The project will be displayed on a trifold board and shared at the Master Naturalist Conference in October. There are 48 chapters in the state; so, there may be many or very few entries.
2. Maureen told us about the photography contest that would be announced soon. Once you submit a picture, it becomes the chapter's photo. The pictures that are entered must have been taken between October 2018 and October 2019. They must be taken in the state of Texas. The contest will be announced in September, and prize winners shared in December.

Board Report:

1. President: George presented Monica and Cindy with their board pins. He reminded us that Camp Wild and the North American Prairie Conference are the following week. The chapter meeting will be June 6th.
2. Vice-President: Cindy was absent.
3. Secretary: Susette encouraged people to volunteer at Camp Wild if possible.
4. Treasurer: Lynn reviewed the treasurer's report. She explained that the Statement of Financial Position is a snapshot of the chapter's funds as of today. It shows the funds that belong to the chapter. The Statement of Financial Activity shows the budget and expenditures to date. Each column represents a part of the budget. The first column is what has happened that month. The next column is cumulative to this date. Then the 3rd column is the approved budget and the last column represents what is remaining in the budget. The Greater Houston Community gave us \$2,000. Expenditures for the store and the new training class were the only expenditures. The store was open for the last class, and Mel had over \$681 in sales. Patty made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, and Robin seconded it. The motion passed.

5. Membership Director: Patty reported on membership. The recertification pins have not yet arrived. There is no change in membership. 22 members of the new class have turned in hours. Patty is still working with several chapter members to get consent for background checks. 5 members of the new class have done their initial certification, and we have 4 people interested in becoming a chapter member.
6. Volunteer Service Director: Jo reported that her committee is still working on the volunteer opportunities available to chapter members.
7. Advanced Training Director: Ellen was absent; so Susette gave her report.

Upcoming presentations:

- Ecology Still Matters-Part 3 by Cindy Howard. (Postponed from April 6) NEW LOCATION & DATE: Saturday June 22. 9:30 - noon. Extension Office. Sign up start June chapter meeting.
 - Green Fire movie & discussion: Life & Work of Aldo Leopold. Wednesday August 14. 9:30 – noon. 2.5 hours. Limit 60. Extension Office. Signup starts at June chapter meeting. *Master Gardeners are invited.*
 - Why Ecology Matters-Part 4 by Cindy Howard. Saturday November 16. 9:30 – noon at the Extension Office. Signup start at October chapter meeting.
8. New Class Director: Janet spoke about the new class. 84-chapter members helped with the new training class. There were 20 different volunteer or AT opportunities showcased at the last class session. 32 chapter members attended the ‘thank you’ lunch for new class volunteers. George thanked Janet for the great job she and her team did. She said they would begin work for the new class in September.
 9. Communications Director: Maureen reported that constant contact would be taken care of by Cindy and Patty while she and Alan were on vacation. Facebook posts would be handled by Chuck and Sandy.
 10. Class Representatives for 2018: Robin said his farewell to the board. He said thanks for the amazing schedule of training classes which the class of 2018 has taken and for the knowledge and enthusiasm that we shared and have given forward. The 2018 class has volunteered over 8,500 hours and attended over 1,000 hours of AT. We are working to be the change we want to see.
Mike said that he had always been a ‘glass half empty’ kind of guy. He said that Master Naturalist was an excellent organization with superb leadership. We study, we learn, we teach, we do. His only concern is the lack of advocacy for the environment. We lead by what we do.
 11. Class Representatives for 2019: Monica said the board meeting had been a great experience to see how the organization works and how much work goes into the organization.
Cindy said thank you for being a part of this group and having the opportunity to serve on the board.
 12. Sponsor: Julie was absent.

Patty wanted to mention at this point that Jay Cross had been at EIH today and looked well. He has been out over a year with health issues.

George said the he was happy with the participation at the Texas Community Futures Forum. He and Cindy served as scribes for the evening. He is also happy that we are doing Treasures of the Bay this year.

Mike made the motion to close the board meeting with Patty seconding the motion. It passed and the board meeting ended at 2:45.