

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2020
Texas AgriLife Building , Classroom 2-Carbide Park

Attendees: Susette Mahaffey, Mike Petite, Bev Morrison, Cindy Liening, George Kyame, Ellen Gerloff, Jo Monday, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Janet Mason, Patty Trimmingham, Cindy Saxenian, and Sponsor Julie Massey. This represents 86% of the board in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm

Susette welcomed the board, reminded group of housekeeping and safety information, and conducted an agenda review.

Old Business:

- Requested discussion and approval of the minutes from January 7th meeting. A motion was made to approve by Mike, 2nd by Cindy L. Motion passed.
- Discussion of funding and implementing Training Class scholarships. 4 students from class of 2020 applied for assistance, each will receive a half scholarship. Funding sources identified. Maureen made a motion that 4 half scholarships for members of the next training class be approved. Jo seconded. Motion passed.
- Discussion of choosing potential project of the year for 2020. Beach Hero was favorably discussed. No motion made. Susette and Maureen have taken the lead on this project.
- 2020 goals brought up and a request was made to understand the time line on the goals. It was agreed some goals had natural deadlines like those involving the TMN Conference in Oct, and some may advance through the year but have to roll over to another year. Susette mentioned that she will be bring the goals up at future meetings for progress reports.

New Business

- City Nature Challenge April 24-27. A 2 ½ AT regarding INat will be held Sat March 21st from 1 to 3:30 with Scott Buckel teaching the class. Chuck Snyder and Rick Becker will offer support for the outside portion. This will prepare members to submit to the City Nature Challenge in April.
- State of the Bay Symposium was held Jan 22-23. Galveston Bay Estuary Program sponsors the 2 days of classes. A number of our members attended and reported that the classes were enriching. Mike was able to secure some speakers for our future meetings.
- The Conservation Wrangler application has been completed and sent in by Susette to the state TMN.
- Money is available for the Keep Texas Beautiful initiative. Information regarding that grant has been sent on to the chapter groups who may be interested. They can choose to apply.

Board Reports:

President: Susette

- Requested that all efforts to volunteer by members be accepted, it may be necessary to redirect the effort, but don't turn members away.
- Reminded that travel time for VMS functions have to equal or be less than the task the trip was made for.
- Susette wanted to reopen discussion of topics from Day Away. She wants a call out made to find leaders and planners that can restart and invigorate an emeritus program. That could include afternoon meetings with service projects, videos of current chapter activities, and/or opportunities for AT.
- In support of emeritus program, it would benefit the chapter if a carpool program could be developed. It would support emeritus, but also be a functional attempt to decrease all our carbon footprints. A chapter email will be written asking for interested people to step forward for these projects.
- Susette requested a list from 2001 forward of our living emeritus members to be identified.

Past President: George

- Called forth members to actively participate in the Crab Trap Removal project from February 21st thru March 1st in various locations.
- He expressed a desire to enhance our showcase of membership service.

Vice President: Mike

- Reported he has secured speakers thru the October meeting.

Secretary: Bev

- Requested that when Susette sends out the minutes for approval, that responses are welcome. The final (unapproved) draft will be sent out 2 days prior to board meetings.
- Also requested that the archival committee respond to questionnaires designed to avoid meetings in the short term. Explained that temporary members of the committee have been identified for when the time comes for choosing the digital format our information will be stored in.

Treasurer: Cindy

- She will add hospitality committee to the collection of committees and their members. The board discussed need to support the committees containing one member with more help. Also helps and protects the committee activities to have others aware of the workings of the committee.
- The financial statements were discussed, the chapter remains sound.
- There is a need to investigate an outstanding debt to our chapter and see if a resolution is possible. A motion by Patty was made to investigate and send a letter regarding the arrears of a member. Seconded by Maureen. Motion passed.
- Mike made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Bev. Motion passed.

Membership: Patty

- Reported on Service and AT hours for 2020. She discussed the conflicting number of website users that appear on different apps. She is using only one for consistency.
- Reported on Opportunity changes in VMS system. Membership not complaining about changes.
- Reported that the state level website will be changing format and will include ours. Reported to be a seamless transition, but the VMS team have help ready to step in if problems need to be solved.

Volunteer Service: Jo

- Had project to be considered by the outreach committee. Treasures by the Bay is June 23-25. Rosenberg library has requested we offer a booth and speaker for that event.

Advanced Training: Ellen

- Reported 3 GBAC sponsored AT sessions for early 2020
- Diurnal Raptors of Galveston Bay Area, February 24.
- Mammals of Texas, March 4
- INaturalists-Preparing for the City Nature Challenge , March 21
- More AT is approved and scheduled beyond March.

New Class: Janet

- Reported the new class will report their own Class hours to VMS, the hope is the class will gain familiarity with the system early in the program.
- The Volunteer luncheon was successful, all of the new class has mentors and the volunteer positions have been filled.
- Gene Fisseler has stepped in to replace an ailing Phyliss Koenig in the role of mentoring coordination.

New Class: Cindy S

- Reported that the class of 2019 is aware and working on the meal for the first day of class training.
- There will be a dish sign up sheet at chapter meeting Thursday.

Sponsor: Julie

- Reported the success and her thanks for a great Dolphin Challenge. The challenge takes 60 volunteers or more to prepare and staff.
- Reported she hopes to have the National Challenge held in Galveston A&M for the 2021 year.
- Reminded members that the 20th anniversary of our chapter is 2021 and needs to be celebrated through out the year.

The meeting was moved to be adjourned at 2:57pm by Patty and seconded by Maureen.

Respectfully Submitted
 Bev Morrison
 GBAC-TMN secretary.

