

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes
March 3rd, 2020
Texas AgriLife Building,
Classroom 2- Carbide Park

Attendees: Susette Mahaffey, George Kyame, Mike Petitt, Beverly Morrison, Cindy Lienen, Ellen Gerloff, Jo Monday, Patty Trimmingham, Cindy Saxenian, and sponsor Julie Massey. This represents 67% of the board in attendance.

Guest: Gene Fisseler

Meeting was called to order at 12.59 pm.

Susette welcomed us to the meeting, reminded us of housekeeping and safety information.

She conducted an agenda review, no new items presented.

Old business:

- The board talked about the minutes from February month. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Cindy L, seconded by Mike and passed by all present.
- Susette reported that 9 people have responded to the request for stepping up to the emeritus program. Robin Kendrick Yates has offered to lead this effort. There will be a foundational meeting March 24th to begin guiding the emeritus effort. Suggestions discussed were having one or more of our scheduled chapter meetings held mid-day, having a greater effort to car pool with our members who prefer not to drive at night or battle construction. There are two day emeritus meetings tentatively scheduled for May 12 and Nov 17th to include lunch and subject material in either speakers or members reporting on their various projects. Susette emphasized with 20-year anniversary of our chapter coming up, she wants all members to be involved.
- Mel Measeles was approached regarding having a second person work with him and be trained in the process of ordering, inventory taking, setting up the store for chapter meetings, or selected merchandizing of AT classes. He was very agreeable to the idea. Patty suggested we select someone outside the board who would be willing to learn this process. Mel also requested the board investigate the process allowing us to take credit cards at the store. Julie mentioned there are other times that having credit card capabilities would be welcome. She mentioned training class fees, dues, and others. Our guest Gene Fisseler also brought up the possibility of receiving donations at various educational events and other occasions. Cindy L is going to investigate options and compare fees, portability, equipment needed to have credit card readers accessible for our needs.

Board Reports: Susette

- Thanked class of 2019 for lovely and successful luncheon for the new class.
- 118 people attended the February chapter meeting. Suggested the room be set up for 120 people going forward. Finding chairs and tables will be a task.
- The Wayne Johnson Building might be available this year. It can hold more people and tables than our current location. Availability of that building will be a concern as it serves many organizations.
- Hans Landel from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center has contacted our chapter to recruit help to document invasive species that could be the result of aquariums and tanks being dumped in our waterways. He has offered to come and speak to our chapter regarding the problem and ways to help. Discussed time frame for such a visit and if travel money and hotels would be necessary or if he is grant funded. Not enough information is available to make a decision. Mike will contact.

V.P. Mike:

- Has one more speaker to obtain for the year. He will contact Hans Landel, has commitments for the other meetings.

Secretary Bev:

- Minutes will now come from Bev, once to solicit changes and again on the Sunday before BOD meeting with the corrections. Corrections can be made at BOD meeting as well.

Treasurer Cindy L:

- Chapter has a positive financial position.
- Discussed request to increase Hawk Watch budget another \$50. Decision deferred to later date.
- Financial activities were discussed as per report.
- Motion made to accept financial reports with corrections as discussed, by Patty, seconded by Susette. Motion approved.

Membership Patty:

- 3,900 logged VMS hours, 541 AT, 1647 impacts recorded in February.
- 200 paid memberships
- 2019 pins that haven't been picked up were mailed, dues renewal application was included with those who haven't renewed.
- Background check on each members profile is done one time. Our chapter is behind in getting all members to fill in the background check form. Some members don't go on line, some could be held up elsewhere in process. Ineligibility can result.

Volunteer service Jo:

- Treasures of the Bay will be June 23-25
- Beach Heroes is increasing its reach. The group will be visiting a Senior Center with special needs residents. Also reaching more schools.

Advanced Training: Ellen

- January 2021 COT will again be offering a full day of hour sessions for AT. Flora will be focus next year. Our chapter will not be offering similar sessions.

- Discussed room size and numbers that can fit in AT offerings. If there is hands on participation, 30-50 should be maximum, other offerings is comfortable at 70 maximum.
- Future AT offerings were presented.
March 21, INaturalist - Scott Buckel, Texas City Prairie Preserve
April 21, Is Taxonomy Really Taxing? E Dowd and C Howard
May 19, Botany: Plants Are Precious, E Dowd
June 16, Botany II, Plant Taxonomy
- Stated a survey regarding AT was being created.

Class Janet: via report from Julie

- Classes have been well-done and favorable reviews.
- Sound amplifier used with George at Exploration Green was successful and will be used again.
- In preparation for the annual conference, the Texas Master Naturalist program is asking for presenter proposals. It was suggested that George submit a proposal for Exploration Green.
- NOAA sent request that if any students or assistants to the class are ill, that they stay home.

Communications: Maureen

- Absent, no report.

Class reps: Cindy S

- She has spoken to other reps, no information to report.

Sponsor: Julie

- Ranchers and Farmers from Tennessee will be hosted at GISP on March 21. Volunteers will be needed on that day.
- A colleague from Montgomery Co is working with marine based robotics this year. Tasks for the robots will include picking up ghost crab and fishing traps, monofilament line, and nurdles. They will be ecreating ?wetlands. This is a good educational experience for students regarding caring for the coast.

A motion was made to end the BOD meeting at 2:36 by Patty. Ellen seconded and the motion was passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Morrison
GBAC-TMN Secretary.