

GBAC TMN Board Meeting Minutes

May 5th, 2020

Zoom Remote Meeting

Attendees: Susette Mahaffey, Mike Petitt, Beverly Morrison, Cindy Lienen, Patty Trimmingham, Jo Monday, Ellen Gerloff, Janet Mason, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Monica Duran, Tiffany Cummings, Cindy Saxenian, Pam House, Kristie Huffman, Walter Meyer, Sponsor Julie Massey. George Kyame and Luxie Mohammed were absent. This represents 16 of 18 members or 89%.

The meeting was called to order by Susette at 1:03pm. She welcomed us to this Zoom format, asked that if we need a break to speak up.

Old Business:

1. April minutes were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Cindy L to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.
2. A financial request and budget from the Bayside Regional Park project leads was received and sent to the board. Financial support for the park was discussed and for this year a new expense item was favored for budget activity. Next year the park may become a line item in the budget. Julie explained that the funding responsibilities are shared between the Chapter and the Galveston County Commissioners Court. Julie also shared that the goodwill of a successful partnership with the Chapter and the Commissioner's Court could spark other cooperative efforts in the county and that will benefit us all. Discussion also included supporting a chapter member to be the lead designer for the park, encourage the leads on this project to include more committee members in information and decision making, have meeting and work days announced to the full chapter via Constant Contact, and request that the board receive a report at least quarterly regarding the activities moving forward at the Bayside Regional Park. Susette will share these request items with Stennie Meadours and Sandy Parker. The board will be encouraged to attend the park next time a tour is scheduled. A motion made by Patty was to fund the Bayside Regional TMN garden for this year up to \$500 and seconded by Maureen. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

1. Kristie Huffman, Pam House and Walter Meyer (alternate) were welcomed to the board from the 2020 class. A board pin will be given when a face-to-face opportunity is allowed.
2. Maureen described that the two current zoom accounts being used for meetings and AT are not in the chapter's name. Upgraded levels of Zoom are being investigated as it is probable that a ZOOM room holding over 100 people

will be needed, and we need to be prepared for it. The Extension office has a commercial zoom account and has offered it to us to use with advance notice. We would need to reserve times and need an acceptable host to their license. The board decided that the cost of a 100+ person account in the chapter's name would be more accessible and make program planning easier. A motion was made to pay no more than \$300 for the rest of the year for a chapter Zoom account, by Mike. Seconded by Ellen. Motion passed unanimously.

Board reports

Susette: President

Susette spoke to the board about reciprocal kindness and gratitude. She shared a quote the gratitude when you receive a kindness, and the gratitude when you can give something back. The second is always the more satisfying.

George: Past President. Absent and no report.

Mike: Vice President

We will have a zoom chapter meeting in June with Diane Humes presenting. He discussed the continuance of speaker gift cards through being mailed to speakers addresses. Maureen requested the zoom hosts have time with each speaker to practice and smooth out the presentations.

Bev: Secretary present, no report.

Cindy L: Treasurer

Cindy told us that the Chapter is financially sound. Because of the 'stay at home' orders, there has been limited activity for last month. A motion was made to accept the financial report by Patty, seconded by Ellen. Discussion followed by unanimous vote to accept.

Patty: Membership

2,400 volunteer hours, 488 AT have been recorded over the past month. We have received 221 paid memberships. The state website will be upgraded in April. Ours will upgrade too in July. This is a good time to review and cull unnecessary information from our website before it is pulled. The archive committee is aware of the need to get 10+ years of the Midden and more off the website but also provide a link for that and other information to be retrievable by interested members.

Jo: Volunteer Service

The latest update on the COVID 19 rulings is no face-to-face gatherings. The opportunities in Galveston Co. continue with watering, bird surveys, water quality monitoring and monofilament bin cleaning if distancing is observed. A list of approved activities should be sent to all members. Harris Co

continues with 'stay at home' orders so opportunities are limited to your yard. Our close relationship to Agrilife and educational facilities will make our return to full service tied to their limits beyond possible local and statewide regulations. The board is requesting members not post on social media or elsewhere that they are doing activities that don't follow local and statewide restrictions while wearing Chapter clothes and identifiers. We were reminded that not following restrictions is a form of civil disobedience and the State Chapter could pull our chapter charter.

Ellen: Advanced Training

She reminded us she can't predict the future so planning for both face to face training and zoom training for our AT is what is needed. She will remain in contact with the chapter, as each opportunity is finalized as to time, place and format. The Zoom ATs have been well-attended with quality programming and will be continued as needed. Speakers have been cooperative and so far technology hasn't failed us. Participants have remarked that they miss the handouts that accompany many AT offerings. With return to limited face to face, it is possible zoom offerings will continue as our available physical space would limit participants to very few.

Janet: Class Coordinator

The class will complete their requirements with their 6th Zoom class this week. Mentors will be able to attend as they are able. The class committee is grateful to reach this graduation class and is grateful to all who helped, especially the zoom team who made any of this possible for the class to complete.

Maureen: Communications

Maureen is appreciative that the chapter is obtaining a large enough "zoom room" that the whole chapter could log on if need be. She reported the continued success of the website and noted the chapter members who assist with Stump the Master Naturalists and welcomes more. She noted that other chapters have contacted her for information to upgrade their websites.

2019: Class Representatives:

They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to join the board.

2020: Class Representatives:

They expressed excitement at working with the board, and their gratitude that the chapter made completing the program possible. Kristie would like a clearer definition of what TMN can currently do and not do, feels the new class would appreciate that. Jo will address this at their last meeting. It has been a moving target.

Julie: Chapter Sponsor:

Reports that the offices at Carbide remain closed to the public and the building staff is on alternative weeks currently. She is very positive about the Emeritus program.

Adjournment: Janet made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Patty. No discussion. Susette adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Morrison
GBAC-TMN Secretary