

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2020
Zoom Remote Meeting

Attendees:

Susette Mahaffey, George Kyame, Mike Petitt, Cindy Lienen, Pam House, Patty Trimmingham, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Ellen Gerloff, Jo Monday, Kristie Huffman, Walter Meyer, Leann Criswell (non-voting), Gene Fisseler (guest), and Sponsor Julie Massey

Absent: Janet Mason

This represents 93% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Susette Mahaffey at 1:02 pm. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting.

Old Business:

1. The June minutes that had been previously emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Walter to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Susette and Maureen led a discussion of the Zoom license. Maureen confirmed that there had been four AT sessions with over 100 attendees and, therefore, it was pretty clear that the license for Zoom will be needed going forward. Cindy indicated that maintaining the license through the end of the year will cost close to the amount budgeted, but if it went somewhat over this would not require a formal budget amendment, in her opinion. This led to a discussion generally about items that might exceed the budgeted amount. Ellen indicated that the AT speaker gifts will exceed budget. The consensus was that as long as overages were made transparent to the board, that the reasons were understood, and that they were easily covered by existing funds, no formal amendment would need to be made to the amend the previously approved budget.

There was also a general hope expressed that some AT programs can continue to be offered by Zoom even when face to face meetings can be held again.

New Business:

1. Maureen and Cindy reported on ideas for the next Zoom chapter meeting. Maureen described the plan to add an element of fun and visiting at the beginning of the August meeting. The plan is to invite people to wear a special hat or pin. Gene Fisseler has agreed to be MC and to ask the participants to describe why the hat or pin was special to them (in connection with MN activities). Cindy explained that this had grown from a discussion to get back to “food, fun, and fellowship” for the chapter, particularly the fun. It was seen as important to find ways to make us laugh and to share that with the members during these times of separation. The opening fun will then be followed by the regular meeting format of a short business meeting, then the AT presentation.

After some discussion about timing, it was tentatively agreed to begin at 6:30 and plan for about 15 minutes for the “fun” session. Gene said he’ll be “really, really good” and warm up the crowd for the main event. The AT session will still begin about 7:00 pm.

2. Board Reports

a. Susette: President

Susette announced that the next Chapter Chat will be July 14th at 1:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Susette reviewed the substance of the state president’s meeting held on June 29th. The state directive was that we are to have no face to face chapter meetings in the near future. We must keep sign-in lists or records of people who are in person volunteering and that those lists need to be kept with the sponsor for 1 year. This is to facilitate any necessary contact tracing. At the time of meeting, there was no state mask policy, but all guidelines, including any stricter city and county guidelines, will be followed. We should remember that compliance of individual members chapters reflect on the organization as a whole.

A review of the CMOP (Chapter Management Operating Procedures) was discussed in the president’s meeting. There were no immediate changes made but a general examination for any needed modification is planned for this year.

The TMN will be providing a host location for trainings developed by chapters, either basic or AT, via the TMN YouTube channel. Susette sent the board the email from Mary Meuth outlining the recommendations for content and the process for submitting videos.

Thirteen chapters currently plan fall training, all virtually. The state requests chapters think about their materials and what could be shared with other chapters.

The web site transition has begun. Patty will be overseeing the transition for our chapter.

There was a discussion of seeking more diversity of TMN. Susette reported that two or three chapters have formed committees to study outreach for expanding diversity. Suggestions were made to place articles in *The Midden* about diverse naturalists including female and people of color, to include this information in new class curriculum, to seek guest speakers with more diversity, and to continue with the outreach that we have already been doing in diverse communities (such as Walkabout, Beach Heroes, and the outreach done at the GISP). Jo urged us to take further steps to actively recruit new class members who don’t look or sound like us. Walter suggested we might offer an open house specifically directed at those communities. Julie reminded us that we have talked to LULAC and Black churches in the area and that we can continue those efforts.

The annual meeting will be held on line as a Webex event. The registration fee has not been set, but will be \$40 to \$80. Much of the details are still under discussion: awards, contests, virtual 5k run, virtual field trips.

b. George: Past President

The scholarship committee had planned to announce scholarship awards in conjunction with Camp Wild. Since it had to be cancelled this year, the committee has not made official recommendations to the board for the awarding of scholarship. There was extensive discussion about the number of scholarships to be awarded, whether a deadline should be set for the acceptance of applications, about how to make the availability of the scholarship more widely known (such as an article in *The Midden*). This year there is an applicant who applied in January and is still awaiting a decision. George explained that since this is the first year of the committee, many of these good recommendations would be considered in setting policy going forward. This year, the committee would review the application and make a recommendation to the board within one week.

c. Mike: Vice President

Mike Niebuhr will be giving the AT presentation at the August chapter meeting. The topic will be "Restaurants to Reefs." Ron Wooten's presentation will be an AT evening presentation in the future.

d. Pam: Secretary

No report

e. Cindy: Treasurer

Cindy reviewed the financial report showing the chapter is financially sound. She explained one adjustment to an item previously listed in accounts receivable. Maureen made a motion to accept the financial report. Jo seconded. The vote to accept was unanimous.

f. Patty: Membership

There are currently 226 paid members, with dues pending for 3. 22 members will be dropped pending future payment of dues. 130 members reported hours in June. There is now a new format for impact reports. She has handed out some pins, but wondered if mailing them out was practical. Julie indicated that the office can mail the pins. She suggested that we might want to include a small congratulatory note with the mailings. There was agreement that sending the pins now is another way to enforce a feeling of continuity for the chapter. Although some chapters are putting a Pay Pal button for chapter fees, there was discussion of the problems with Pay Pal and sticking with the system that the chapter has in place for accepting credit cards.

g. Jo: Volunteer Service

We continue to provide information about volunteer opportunities for those who need them. She plans to reach out to the new class members who have few hours

to see if anything can help them get their hours.

- h. Ellen: Advanced Training
There have been three more AT's and the chapter AT in the last month– 5 hours total. The planned July and August AT schedule was emailed to the board members. More variety in the timing of the ATs is planned. The next AT committee meeting will be in August
- i. Janet: Class Coordinator
Janet was absent – no report.
- j. Maureen: Communications
Facebook has about 1400 followers. The “Stump the Master Naturalists” have been very popular with the sea beans focused posting the most popular with 1850 clicks. There are now nine trained members on the Zoom team for which she and Chuck are very grateful. Constant Contact has been used to send out 27 to 29 messages per month with 7500 received messages opened. The opening rate has been quite high: 51% of all MN messages, 75-80% of the AT informational messages opened. The annual photo contest will go forward this year. The contest will run the month of August: August 1-August 30.
- k. Kristie, Walter & Leann Class Representatives
No reports
- l. Julie: Chapter Sponsor
Great thanks for all of the work of the chapter and especially the AT committee. She was particularly glad that the Master Gardeners have been invited to join the ATs. The office schedule remains the ½ in office, ½ at home on alternating weeks and will remain that way for the foreseeable future. She encouraged us all to remain careful.

Other Business

None

Wrap-Up

Susette extended her thanks to us all for attending.

Motion to adjourn was made by Walter, seconded by Jo. Motion approved unanimously. Susette adjourned the meeting at 2:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela House
GBAC-TMN Secretary