

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes  
August 4, 2020  
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

Susette Mahaffey, 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:

George Kyame, Janet Mason, Mike Petitt

This represents 77% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Susette Mahaffey at 1:03 pm. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The July minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Jo to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
2. In George's absence, Susette led a discussion of the activities of the ad hoc Scholarship Committee. She reviewed the fact that a vote had been taken by the board via email concerning the awarding of a scholarship. George Kyame had made an email motion to award a scholarship in the amount of \$500 to Elizabeth Cornwell. The motion was seconded by Kristie Huffman. The vote was completed on July 20. With nine votes in favor, and none opposed, the scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to Elizabeth Cornwell.

The board discussed criteria for the scholarship going forward. Julie gave some background about the scholarship and how most recently it has been given to students who have volunteered with our chapter, either via outreach or restoration programs. Not all of the students have been planning to go into natural resources studies.

There seemed to be a consensus expressed that the scholarships should be for undergraduate or graduate programs for applicants who have worked with GBAC or with one of our partners. Maureen described it as offering both "carrot and stick" to encourage volunteering, e.g. those who did great work at Camp Wild. Several board members spoke to the importance of reaching out for diversity in future applications and making sure that the availability and the requirements for the scholarships were publicized in an appropriate manner. There was agreement Susette would communicate the board's discussions to the scholarship committee, not as specific direction, but to provide some information as to the board's thinking. As Julie said, we would like to make it clear that the plan presented by the committee doesn't have to be perfect and can be adjusted as necessary.

## NEW BUSINESS

None

## BOARD REPORTS

### 1. Susette: President

We have been asked to sponsor the October state annual meeting at the \$300 contribution level. Susette explained that the contributions help pay for the annual meeting costs which include those for WebEx and any monies still due to the original venue, in spite of the cancellation. Maureen inquired as to whether this item was budgeted and Cindy confirmed that it was budgeted in the amount of \$300. Therefore, no additional vote of approval was required.

Susette reported that we had been asked to do a virtual tour as part of the annual meeting presentation. It is to be a 1 ½ hour tour video which would involve filming and narration and answering online questions about the tour. Susette discussed how to politely decline to do this due to the limited time available. Patty mentioned that Scott Buckel, George, and Chuck may have something nearly completed that would work for the requested presentation. Susette will contact them to see if they want to follow through and offer it for the annual meeting.

Susette had forwarded the CMOP Handbook to the board members for review. If anyone had any suggestions for change, she requested that they forward it to her. She will send any feedback on to the state.

TAMUG's Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research has invited our chapter to be a partner in their sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation hospital and education center. This is in recognition of the contributions made by our members including Alan Wilde, Maureen, and Carlos Rios. Susette reported that we are "truly honored that they would reach out to us and want to include us as partners." Maureen spoke for the board in replying with "Woo Hoo!"

A new Diversity and Inclusion Committee is being formed. Robin Kendrick-Yates has indicated his interest in chairing the committee with Cindy Saxenian, Meade LeBlanc, Mohammed Nasrullah, and Chris La Chance also interested in participating. It was suggested that Julie, Janet and Cindy Howard also be included. A module on this might be included in the new class curriculum. Patty will determine how this should be counted in the VMS, whether under an existing opportunity or if a new one needs to be created.

We received a thank you from Armand Bayou from Susan Millsap for our contribution to them. Julie explained that this was in recognition of their allowing us to use their facility for our training class meetings that did take place.

### 2. Susette (in Mike's absence): Vice President

The August chapter meeting will be August 6 and will begin at 6:00 pm. Gene will be

the host for the pre-business activities (he promises to have the members amazed). Mike Niebuhr will give the AT presentation of “Restaurant to Reef.”

3. Pam: Secretary

Nothing to report.

4. Cindy: Treasurer

Cindy reviewed the financial report which she had emailed to the board showing the chapter is fiscally sound. We have received some grants from sponsors. This year’s class has paid their fees in full. Maureen made a motion to accept the financial report. Jo seconded. The vote to accept was unanimous.

5. Patty: Membership

There are currently 229 paid members. July saw over 2000 hours of volunteer service, and 293 hours of AT. There has been an increase in the impacts (thank you, Ford Hubbert). She thanked Joanna Mendoza for sending the earned pins out for last month and will plan to do the same this month. Twelve trainees have completed their initial certification.

The web sites for all chapters have been converted to the new system. Patty indicated that that work on the partner and volunteer opportunity pages is planned. Susette wanted to be sure that the board was aware of all of the hard work that Patty has done and to thank her.

6. Jo: Volunteer Service

Jo continues to send out opportunity information to the membership and to try to make sure that the new class members are updated. There was discussion of the potting and prairie opportunities available at Galveston Bay Island Park. Walter indicated that he was a point person to see about this.

Susette will send application to Jo for the new diversity committee opportunity.

7. Ellen: Advanced Training

Sally Pachulski of the Green Team will be starting a documentary discussion club. There will be a suggested video for participants to watch prior to a one hour zoom discussion led by Green Team members. The first approved video will focus on straws.

There were three GBAC AT opportunities in July for a total of 4.25 hours. There are four scheduled in August. The AT committee will meet on August 17 for future planning. September and November AT will be planned, but October should be well covered via the annual and chapter meetings. A couple of programs will be planned in both September and November and planning for the spring will begin.

8. New Class

Nothing to report in Janet’s absence.

9. Maureen: Communications

Maureen reviewed the report that was sent out prior to the meeting. She asked that we join in recognizing Chuck for the amazing job he has done in recording the Zoom sessions and making those into portable videos that can be posted on You Tube. The committee is planning to put together a booklet about maximizing Zoom that can be shared. The photo contest has kicked off. A judging team has been selected. Maureen reminded the board that almost every year our photographers have been recognized statewide.

Maureen and Susette will be coordinating a presentation on the Beach Heroes program for the state meeting. The committee will be reaching out for more assistance with the many ongoing projects.

10. Kristie, Walter, & Leann: Class Representatives

Nothing to report.

11. Julie: Chapter Sponsor

Office continues to operate with ½ staff at office, and ½ at home.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

WRAP-UP

Susette thanked everyone for their attendance.

Motion to adjourn was made by Maureen, seconded by Walter. Motion approved unanimously. Susette adjourned the meeting at 2:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam House