

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes  
September 1, 2020  
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

Susette Mahaffey, Mike Pettit, Janet Mason, Cindy Liening, Pam House, Patty Trimmingham, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Ellen Gerloff, Jo Monday, Kristie Huffman, Walter Meyer, and Leann Criswell (non-voting)

Absent:

George Kyame and Sponsor Julie Massey

This represents 85% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Susette Mahaffey at 1:01 pm. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The August minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Mike to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Hurricane Procedures

Last week several members met (virtually) and discussed what to do during Laura. Maureen reported that they reviewed the procedures used during Harvey of contacting all members via VMS system to make sure they were safe and determine if any help was needed. Laura helped everyone realize that it was probably important to have a planned procedure for emergencies in the future. The suggestion was that we create a process with assigned responsibilities for the board members and make sure that we all were trained in the tools that would be used. The process should be reviewed and training followed each year. There was discussion of timing of follow up, limits in communication if cell towers were out, and the probable need to do follow up my email and text / telephone.

Maureen agreed to chair a group to come up with a suggested process. The team composed of Maureen, Patty, Leann, and Janet will develop a plan for the use of Constant Contact and responsibilities assigned for each board position with backup. They will plan to present a proposal by the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Jo asked for approval for a new project “the E Store.” It is a project developed as a way to reduce inventory of the store and to give a way for the new class to obtain some volunteer hours. The roll out would be an online store for ordering items for curb side no contact pickup. Volunteers would be responsible for the entire project. Jo, Cindy, Janet, Mel, Chuck and Julie formed the initial feasibility committee.

They identified volunteer rolls that would need to be filled:

- 1) Pair of people to process the order and assemble for delivery.
- 2) Delivery on site at Carbide. The purchaser would arrive by car and open the back seat or trunk; the volunteer would put the order in the car.
- 3) E Store coordinator to act as assistant to Mel Measeles for the E commerce.

If approved, it is tentatively scheduled to being the week of 9/13/2020.

Volunteers tentatively assigned:

Olivia and Walter Meyer for processing.

Ruth and Mohammed Nasrullah for delivery.

Mary Christian to be the coordinator / assistant for the project.

Cindy reported that the working committee proposes that an email go out to the new class as the initial trial. If it works, plan to open to whole membership. Payment can be by check, by money order, or by using Square for credit cards. Actual processing fees for credit card would be added to the cost.

Maureen made a motion to create the E Store as proposed. Janet seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## BOARD REPORTS

### 1. Susette: President

Susette confirmed, as per Dr. Christopher Marshall, that we are now a partner in the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research. The center will be selling T-shirts and hats with the Gulf Center logo. It is hoped that when the new facility is built many more opportunities for volunteers and cooperation will be available. Dr. Marshall has volunteered to speak at one of our upcoming chapter meetings. Mike indicated that the February meeting might be a good one for him to speak.

She reminded us of the sign up for the state meeting. Maureen will be presenting the Beach Hero project for Project of the Year. Robin Kendrick-Yates will be giving a presentation on the Emeritus project. One of our members, Margaret Carrol, will be presenting a program on Monarchs for the Houston Zoo.

The next board meeting will be September 29, because the next chapter meeting will be October 1. There was discussion of whether all members of the board were interested in continuing in his or her current position; all indicated willingness to continue. After some discussion, it was recognized that a formal nomination and voting process for all positions was required by the Bylaws. George Kyame is the chair of the nominating committee and will be asked to prepare nominations.

### 2. Past President: No report in George's absence.

### 3. Mike: Vice President

Ashley Morgan-Olvera of Sam Houston State University will be giving the AT presentation "Texas Invasives" at the October chapter meeting.

4. Pam: Secretary

Pam thanked Susette for proofreading and correcting each month's minutes.

5. Cindy: Treasurer

Reviewed the financials that she had previously sent out to the board members.

Jo made a motion to approve the financials, Patty seconded. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Cindy went through the preliminary budget that she provided with discussion of some changes from the previous year's amounts. She also explained that unspent budgeted amounts do not carry forward. Any expenditure planned for the new budget year needs to be allocated in that budget.

Cindy reported that the scholarship approved has not yet been paid to the institution. She is awaiting the request from the scholarship recipient.

6. Patty: Membership

Patty reported that the numbers of reported volunteer hours were down in August; about half of the July numbers. This is normally a low month of the year. AT hours were up from last year. Two more training class members are now certified. Ninety-nine members are recertified which is not far off from last year's numbers of recertification. There are 230 paid members. A new transfer is Larry Reynolds and Tom Prouty will be his mentor.

Patty has worked on the "What we Do" page. It has been condensed and a lot of the volunteer opportunities updated.

7. Jo: Volunteer Service

Jo reported that they are exploring the home school venue again for volunteer outreach. Karen Hazen will spearhead that effort.

8. Ellen: Advanced Training

There were five Zoom GBAC AT sessions in August for a total of 7.25 hours. The AT team is beginning to schedule the rest of the year. On September 17 a session on Raptors presented by Erich Neupert of the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is scheduled. On September 30, Mandy Gordon of EIH will give a presentation on the Terrapins of Galveston Bay.

9. Janet: New Class

Janet announced that they were still hoping to be able to run field experiences in early spring 2021 for the 2020 training class. It is still considered important to allow the class to have hands on experiences and to meet and work with chapter members.

After a lot of input and discussion, including from the 2020 class, there was a strong feeling on the training committee that the next class should be delayed until it can meet in

person. This means that it would probably be delayed until August of 2021. The board discussed options for keeping those who have already expressed an interest in the next class involved with the chapter.

10. Maureen: Communications

Maureen reported on the continuing large numbers of followers of our Facebook, including the Heartwood and Piney Woods MN chapters. The Zoom team has been asked by Texas A&M to help with the scheduled Kemps Ridley training on September 23.

The photo contest generated quite a few entries. The winners were selected on September 7.

Chuck had asked Maureen to see if a Chapter Chat was scheduled. Susette announced there would be no Chapter Chat this month because of the timing of the chapter meeting and she would share any information to the membership at that meeting.

There will be filming next week of a segment to be included with the Beach Hero presentation for Project of the Year at the annual meeting.

11. Kristie, Walter, & Leann: Class Representatives

Walter reported that Galveston Island State Park has proceeded with the grass planting group activities and that the green houses are up again. Covid was still preventing some activities.

12. Julie: Chapter Sponsor

No report in Julie's absence.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**WRAP-UP**

Susette thanked everyone for their attendance. There was some discussion about how to make the December meeting a celebration in spite of not being able to meet in person. It was agreed that some efforts would be made to make that happen.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jo, seconded by Patty. Motion approved unanimously. Susette adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam House