

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2020
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

Susette Mahaffey, George Kyame, Mike Petitt, Janet Mason, Cindy Liening, Pam House, Patty Trimmingham, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Ellen Gerloff, Jo Monday, Walter Meyer, Kristie Huffman

Absent:

Leann Criswell (alternate) and Sponsor Julie Massey

Visitors:

Gene Fisseler

This represents 92% 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 and urged all to vote in the election if they hadn't already.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The September 29, 2020 minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Patty and seconded by Maureen to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORTS (Partial)

1. George – Past President

Since George thought he might have to leave early, his report was taken out of order. The nominating committee was confirming with the current Board Members who were subject to election that they would like to remain in their positions. Chris Anastas and Lynn Wright had suggested using the Zoom polling feature for the voting on the nominated slate of officers at the annual meeting. A practice vote will be taken prior to the meeting.

Susette asked if anyone else had applied for a scholarship this year. George reported that no one else had applied and confirmed that the check had gone out for the scholarship recipient already approved. After reviewing previous discussions about what to do if no further applications were received, Pam moved that the remaining \$500 also be awarded to the current recipient. The motion was seconded by Patty. Ellen commented that it was “not unusual for one person to get the full \$1000.” The motion passed unanimously. Cindy thanked George for his assistance in communications with the recipient.

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Susette led a report on the 2020 State Meeting. Included in her report was a review of awards recognized including the photo awards. A new special "Against All Odds" pin will be awarded by the state to all MN members who have earned 8 hours of AT and at least 1 hour of volunteer time. The 2021 pin was previewed. It will be the sideoats grama grass.

Patty reported that 24 people logged hours for the annual meeting. Maureen thought an excellent job had been done using the Webex, but missed the interaction we can have via Zoom. Cindy thought the Webex was not as good as Zoom and that there were quite a few glitches in the video streaming. Janet concurred. It made us all appreciate what our Zoom team has accomplished. Ellen reported that although the first session she attended was poor in broadcast quality, the others were quite good and enjoyable. Olivia had sent a note to Ellen on the moth presentation and she has followed up and contacted the presenter for future presentations for us. Maureen said she had contacted a couple of the speakers and they had been very receptive to follow up and giving with information.

The meeting grossed \$75,700 and 1171 people registered for the event. Susette says the state plans to leave the video sessions available to those who registered for the meeting for later viewing. Any viewing can be counted as AT. Ellen requested clarification if viewing in 2021 would count towards 2021 certification.

3. Susette went over the preliminary agenda for the December Chapter Meeting. She said that the new class was planning something as a replacement for providing centerpieces. Kristie will be sharing more information about that.

Gene had volunteered to deliver badges to the 2020 class and pickup remaining textbooks. It was suggested that he might deliver certificates and pins at the same time. We had been awaiting the badges before letting him loose on the class.

Maureen said that a run through of the December meeting will be planned for the Wednesday before at about 1:00 pm. A zoom announcement will be sent out.

Patty inquired about how the recognition of volunteer service milestones will be handled. The media presentation will include those milestones for 2500, 4000, 5000, and 15,000. Patty will present just the final period certifications.

4. Mike gave a report on the Disaster Planning Team's work. He reviewed the plan that he had sent out to the board members. Susette suggested that we take time to review the plan and make any suggested modifications. The plan could be reviewed annually at the April meeting to let members know what is available and planned. Patty suggested that the call list be assigned by board title, rather than name, so that it could be carried forward as board members were replaced. She also suggested the call spreadsheet should be archived in Google Docs. It was thought that it should

probably be updated about twice a year, after the new class. Cindy said that the folder could be set with permissions so that the full board will have access to it.

5. Susette reviewed the plans for the 20th Anniversary Celebrations. She sent to the board an outline of what is planned at each month's meeting. The planning team will meet again in December.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

BOARD REPORTS (Continued)

1. Susette: President

Susette gave a summary of the state Presidents' meeting. The return to service now allows 75% capacity, but with a maximum of 50 people, masks required whether meeting inside or outside, and a list of attendees still to be kept for at least one year. The new guidelines will still not allow us to have chapter meetings in person.

There will be another virtual volunteer fair in early February. Volunteer hours can be earned by attending the fair. It will highlight activities that can be conducted from home. There will be statewide AT offered on Master Naturalist Tuesdays planned for 10 months next year (not October or December). It will be a virtual presentation at the lunch hour. TMN protective masks are now available for purchase. Word Press training is still suspended. There is no anticipated change to the service requirements for certification for next year.

There will be a Chapter Chat on Monday, November 9 at 1:00 pm. The next Emeritus general meeting will be on November 17.

2. George: Past President
Nothing further to report.
3. Mike: Vice President
Nothing further.
4. Pam: Secretary
No report.
5. Cindy: Treasurer
Reviewed the financials that she had previously sent out to the board members.

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

Cindy reviewed the proposed budget. There was discussion of the funding for the Ocean Science Bowls and whether the funding should be adjusted since they would be held by

Zoom. It was thought that Julie might need to provide additional information. There was discussion of the slight deficit projected in the budget and review of the secure financial position of the chapter and ability to easily cover this.

Maureen moved the approval of the 2021 budget, Janet seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Patty: Membership

There was quite a bit of activity resulting in an increase of 400 impacts from last month. The activities that resulted in impacts included those at Exploration Green and Houston Botanical Garden. AT skyrocketed due to the state conference. Volunteer hours were also up and three more of the 2020 class certified bringing the current total to 17.

7. Jo: Volunteer Service

Jo continues to provide information about volunteer opportunities. The Bird Rescue is currently looking for volunteers. Walter said that Galveston Island State Park definitely needs help on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:30 or Noon.

8. Ellen: Advanced Training

Ellen reviewed the AT planned for the rest of the year including the Nov. 11 presentation by Bastrop State Park on Fire Ecology and the November 19 presentation on the Diamondback Terrapin which was rescheduled from earlier. Over 35 hours of AT was offered by GBAC this year, not including the book club hours.

9. Janet: New Class

No new information.

10. Maureen: Communications

Gave a plug for the AT planned for tomorrow (November 4). "He's grand!"

She offered her thanks to Elizabeth and Elisha Hehir, Scott Buckel, and the Wrights for their contributions to the Facebook page. Four other chapters are following our Facebook page and it has garnered a phenomenal following.

The communications team will be doing more videoing. A current video is part of the Emeritus presentation. Another is planned to promote the Treasures of the Bay.

11. Walter & Kristie: Class Representatives

No report.

12. Julie: Not present.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

WRAP-UP

Maureen described the plastics symposium in Matagorda that is planned for the month of February. Zoom and in person opportunities are planned.

The next board meeting will be December 1 at 1:00 pm. Susette expressed appreciation to everyone for their efforts and contributions this year.

Susette adjourned the meeting at 2:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam House