

GBAC-TMN Board Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2021  
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

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

Absent:

Sponsor Julie Massey

This represents 92% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Susette Mahaffey at 9:03 am. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting. She reminded board that the year had begun last year with a day away in the park and we've had to deal with extraordinary circumstances unforeseen at that time. Due to the remarkable contributions of the Zoom team, the year still proved to be awesome and the forward movement of the chapter continued in spite of the pandemic.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. The December 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. A review of the activities of the archive committee was led by Susette, Cindy and Patty. The committee was formed last spring in anticipation of the changes being made to the website at the state level. The original goal was to insure that the existing web information not be lost as a result of the transition. Patty supervised the changes to the web. Cindy created folders in Google Docs for saving content and pulled everything off the old web site before the changeover. The project has expanded and the goal now is to make a depository of all chapter information that should be saved for future reference in one place. The archive committee will meet periodically, maybe three times a year. There was a broader discussion of items that should be archived and the need to develop a criterion for the future storage in the archives. Items mentioned included past AT, treasurer reports, tax exemption documents, grants, and records of Treasures of the Bay recipients.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**BOARD REPORTS**

1. Susette: President  
Susette reported that new state guidelines for COVID-19 were due to be given tomorrow. Harris and Galveston counties remain in the "red" zone with volunteer service primarily

limited to that undertaken alone. There was discussion of the lack of clarity in the state guidelines and the problem of subjective interpretation of “essential” and “risky” activities when applying them. Walter hoped that some statement from the state would be forthcoming with direction about how vaccination would affect allowed activities.

2. Mike: Vice President

The April chapter meeting AT will be a presentation by Manuela del Forno on lichens. The February meeting will be Chris Marshall’s turtle presentation. Nothing is scheduled past that time as of yet.

3. Pam: Secretary

No report.

4. Cindy: Treasurer

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

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

5. Patty: Membership

Patty reviewed the membership report for 2020. There were 506 total members of who 231 were paid members. 277 were inactive or not eligible members; 22 have never done the background check. 20 of the trainee class have certified and one member transferred out, leaving just three more to certify. All members have until February 15 to log 2020 hours.

6. Jo: Volunteer Service

No report.

7. Ellen: Advanced Training

Ellen reviewed the AT for the year. Three AT presentations are already planned for 2021. On January 27: Emily Campbell will present “Leave No Trace.” The Wrights will present on diurnal raptors on February 22. On March 28, Heidi Whitehead will present on the stranding turtle network.

We have reached out to include others in our AT as coordinated with the Zoom team.

8. Janet: New Class

Planning is underway for the 2021 class.

9. Maureen: Communications

They have continued to be very busy and are developing more virtual video projects including a walking the beach video with the assistance of Scott.

10. Walter & Kristie: Class Representatives

Walter thanked Leann for her fabulous job in developing the class presentation for the

December annual chapter meeting. Leann indicated that she has been working on expanding the presentation by adding materials from Michael and Carter that were received too late to be originally included. Janet also praised Leann's musical choices for the video. Maureen suggested that the video should be submitted for the state meeting next year.

11. Julie: Chapter Sponsor

Although Julie wasn't present, she sent information confirming that the Dolphin Challenge would be held on March 6 and 7. The Loggerhead Challenge, although planned for February 6 and 7, may be combined into one challenge in March.

OTHER BUSINESS

Susette made the sad announcement that she and her husband will be moving to Round Rock. She intends to remain as President via Zoom as long as she can be effective.

WRAP-UP

Susette adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am. The board will reconvene for Day Away at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam House

## Goals for 2021

- Assign the new class reps a mentor from the board & hold an orientation meeting for new members to the board. – Janet Mason
- Training program for identifying invasive species – recognition of the species / needs to be ongoing and learning about how to address the issues with the invasive – GBAC Invasive Team – Mike Petitt
- Chapter needs to work on being more intentionally inclusive – assign greeters for each meeting and possibly training/ be with Patty at the sign – table. – Ellen
- Disaster Planning Team – Mike Petitt
- Creation of Slide Shows – Leann, Maureen & Chuck (temporary), Meade LeBlanc
- Zoom meeting to recruit volunteers for the different volunteer activities – needs to be an action item to begin next week – board members ( Jo, Susette, Maureen, Patty, Chuck) & team leads
- Succession planning
  - Identify & train chapter members
  - Leading a team
  - Agendas, scheduling of meetings, minutes etc.
  - Taking on leads or co-leads of various committees
  - Outreach - board members