

GBAC – TMN Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2021
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

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

Guests:

None

This represents 100% of the voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 1:02. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Maureen proposed that a standard process be used to make announcements when a chapter member or a family member of a chapter member dies. The new process shall be as follows:

1. When an individual becomes aware of the death of a member or a member's family member, communicate that information to Pam and Penny.
2. Pam will send the official communication through Constant Contact to chapter members, and send a card. Share a picture if one is available.
3. Penny will send a formal note on behalf of the chapter.

Maureen then provided her communication committee report as follows:

1. She thanked Meade LeBlanc for sending the milestone events to the Galveston Daily News. Recently there were two articles about chapter members who reached milestone hours: Tom Solomon for 25,000 hours and Marie Asscherick for 15,000 hours.
2. Facebook has 1,600 followers now, and the birding posts are particularly popular. The weekend challenge "Can You Name This" will be offered again.
3. Maureen mentioned that is very important to have back-up individuals trained for critical activities. During the recent weather event, Maureen and Alan were not able to send any messages. Fortunately Patty and Cindy were able to fill in. This is something that the board should consider in the future to ensure there is coverage for important tasks.
4. Schools are requesting Zoom and video segments with activities such as birding along the beach or sea turtles. Maureen is soliciting volunteers who can help

create this content for the schools, after Dolphin Challenge is finished this weekend.

Pam's President report was as follows:

1. Pam asked the board about the 4-minute video that the Green Team requested be shown as part of a chapter meeting. Several board members expressed concern that the video borders on advocacy, which is not allowed. Jo and Ellen suggested that the video be incorporated into an advanced training event, in which further discussion could take place. Once the training is ready, a link to the 4-minute video could be sent to all members.
2. According to the bylaws or chapter operating handbook, every board and committee member is supposed to sign an ethics statement every year. This will be further researched and the form sent out later.
3. Pam asked whether we should add a Diversity Officer to the board? There are several options, from making the officer a formal board member, a non-voting board member, or asking the diversity committee to send a report to one of the existing board members. It was decided that for now, the diversity committee would send a report to Jo Monday for inclusion in each board meeting discussion.

Mike's Vice President report was as follows:

1. The timing of the chapter meetings needs to be clarified and communicated. The speaker should start promptly at 7:00. The anniversary activities ran long during the February meeting, causing the speaker to start late. Julie recommended that the meeting start at 6:00 for social hour, 6:15 for anniversary activities and business meeting, breaking at 7:00 for speaker, and then, if necessary, the business meeting will follow-conclude when the speaker is finished. If the anniversary and business activities end before 7:00, then there will be a break until that time.
2. All speakers are scheduled for 2021 meetings.

Susette's Past President report was as follows:

1. For the next 20th Anniversary celebration in April, Susette wants to include slides for each of the past classes, which will total about 40 slides, and end with one or two slides in memoriam for members no longer here. The next anniversary committee meeting will be scheduled after Dolphin Challenge.
2. There was good feedback from the February meeting. People really responded to seeing Dick Benoit at the meeting. Susette recommends a Founder's Day every year to recognize the people who came before.
3. Pam thanked Susette for doing such a wonderful job as President and her continued involvement in the 20th Anniversary celebrations.

Cindy provided the financial report, ~~attached~~. Patty made a motion to approve the report, Walter seconded it, and all voted to approve the report.

Patty's membership report was as follows:

1. A list of members was sent to all board members last week, in case anyone needed contact information for an emergency.
2. In 2020, there were 32,178 volunteer hours and 4,252 advanced training hours. The advanced training hours were higher than normal and the volunteer hours were lower, due to covid restrictions.
3. Of the 2020 initial training class, 22 have certified, one transferred, and one has not certified.
4. There are 183 paying members.
5. 163 members will be presented with the Against All Odds pins, which required 8 hours of advanced training and 1 hour of volunteer service in 2020. Patty will mail the pins after the chapter meeting.
6. Since December, over 1,500 hours have been logged with turtles since the Turtle Hospital opened.
7. 3 members certified in January/February for 2020, 18 have recertified, and 1 individual earned a 500 hour pin.

Jo reminded the group that it is important to complete the form for approval for a new opportunity in advance of volunteering, in order to be certain that the hours will count.

Ellen's AT update was as follows:

1. The Heritage book study group has provided 7 hours.
2. GBAC has offered 2 ¾ hours of AT.
3. Over 70 individuals joined the diurnal raptor training class.
4. On March 18 a class will be offered by the marine mammal stranding network.
5. There are 2 classes on the calendar for April, 1 for May, and 3 for June.

Meade discussed the archive project and asked the board members for any board policies, procedures, and grant proposals which need to be added to the archives.

Julie gave an update on the Dolphin Challenge this weekend, which is keeping many people busy. There are now teams from 3 states competing this year.

Susette made a motion to adjourn, Patty seconded it, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 pm.