

GBAC – TMN Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
Zoom Board Meeting

Attendees:

Pam House, Susette Mahaffey, Mike Petitt, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Patty Trimingham, Jo Monday, Ellen Gerloff, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Walter Meyer, Leann Criswell, and Sponsor Julie Massey

Not present:

Janet Mason

Guests:

Gene Fissler

This represents 91% of the voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 1:00. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The March 30 minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Jo and seconded by Maureen to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

The Goals for 2021 were reviewed:

- Assign new class reps: Not needed because there will not be a new class for 2021.
- Training program for identifying invasive species: On hold due to Covid restrictions on meeting in person.
- Chapter needs to work on being more intentionally inclusive: On hold due to Covid restrictions on meeting in person. However, there will be additional time added to the start of each Zoom chapter meeting to allow time to visit. In addition, individuals will be asked to participate by chat if they are hesitant to jump in via video.
- Disaster planning: Mike reported that he has an article in the June Midden and he will present the disaster plan at the next Chapter meeting. Board members are assigned to individual members. The plan will be stored in a folder in the Google Drive Archives and Meade will write up instructions for how the Board members can access the folder.
- Creation of slide shows: Leann and Ainsley have done a wonderful job making slide shows for the meetings. The goal is to transfer some of the responsibility from Chuck and Maureen.
- Zoom meeting to recruit volunteers for the different volunteer activities: A Chapter AT would be helpful to teach potential leaders how to do tasks that are needed to take on leadership positions, such as writing agenda, sending emails to Alan, and the like. Currently there is work underway to transition duties for the

Outreach Committee because Sara Snell is no longer leading that committee. There are also gaps for the Emeritus, Diversity, and Scholarship Committees. The Outreach Committee transition will be used as a template for the other committee gaps.

- Succession planning: Need to consider how to let members know which volunteer opportunities are there.

The Goals will be revisited again in a couple of months.

New Business:

Zoom Large Group License:

Chuck and Maureen use their personal Zoom licenses for smaller meetings. When a meeting has 100 or more participants, then the host needs to pay for a large group license for the month, at a cost of approximately \$50. There are 7 people on the Zoom team, and the team will determine who is available to host each large meeting, pay the upgrade, and submit the payment to Cindy for reimbursement.

Do Drop In: Maureen mentioned that some people stopped by Carbide last time Mel's store was open on Saturday, brought chairs and stayed to visit for a while. It was a very well received activity like an informal meeting. Mel's store will be open again on May 22, and people will be encouraged to stop by, bring a chair, bring snacks, and visit. Additional activities can be planned for the June 26th date. Julie will look at what games are available. There is a pavilion in the back that can be reserved. The consensus is to start small in May and expand activities in June. A pandemic plan needs to be filed for May activities. It is not certain yet whether a pandemic plan is needed in June. The return to service guidelines have not changed: six feet of space between people outdoors and ten feet of space indoors.

Pam's President report was as follows:

1. Upcoming state training sessions include:
 - TMN Tuesday on May 11
 - Be the Change on May 18
2. The Nature reflection project is soliciting submissions from members on the topic of what nature has meant during the year of Covid.
3. The annual meeting is scheduled for October 21-24. It will be a hybrid meeting, offering attendance both in-person and on Zoom.

Susette's Past President report was as follows:

1. The June 20th Anniversary celebration will focus on volunteerism.
2. Joanna is working on a 20th Anniversary pin for anyone who has paid their dues this year.
3. The t-shirts are for sale in Mel's store.

Mike's Vice President report was as follows:

1. Walter and Leann will continue as class reps this year.

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

Patty's membership report was as follows:

1. There are 238 paid members.
2. The Against All Odds Pins are being mailed along with other mailings when possible, to save postage and supplies costs.
3. AT hours start to decline once people reach their requirement for the year.
4. People are putting contact information into VMS, which shows demographic information about the individuals who we contact.
5. All individuals from the 2020 class are certified now.
6. Jim Duron reached 25,000 hours. The state office has not communicated the award for that level of service. Tom Solomon reached that level of service previously. Perhaps the chapter could purchase an item like a denim shirt with the name and hours.

Jo's volunteer service director report was as follows:

1. Adopt a Paddling Trail was approved for volunteer service.
2. Jo read the Diversity Committee report, stating that the committee is focusing on facilitating discussion sessions following the State diversity training classes.

Ellen's AT update was as follows:

1. The Cradle of Texas chapter is starting a library. The Heritage Book Study group will donate books in instances where the library has multiple copies of the same book.
2. There are 8 AT classes scheduled between April and August.

Janet was not in attendance. Her report follows:

1. There will not be a new training class in 2021.
2. There will be several field trips scheduled in the fall for the 2020 class, which missed field trips in 2020 due to Covid.
3. There will be a meet and greet with the 2022 class on November 18. The class will start February 17, 2022.

Maureen provided her communication committee report as follows:

1. Facebook posts continue to be popular, especially information about hawk watch and Stump the Master Naturalist.
2. Outreach is taking place. Beach Heroes conducted Zoom sessions with 3 schools, reaching 450 children. Schools are interested in in-person/outdoors and hybrid classes in the fall.

Pam commented that the board could potentially meet in person in July.

Mike made a motion to adjourn, Walter seconded it, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Meade LeBlanc