

GBAC – TMN Board Meeting Minutes
July 6, 2021
In Person Board Meeting

Attendees:

Pam House, Susette Mahaffey, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Patty Trimmingham, Jo Monday, Janet Mason, Maureen Nolan-Wilde, Walter Meyer, Leann Criswell, and Sponsor Julie Massey

Not present:

Mike Petitt, Ellen Gerloff

Guests:

None

This represents 80% of the voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 10:05. She welcomed the board to the first in-person meeting of the year.

Pam made a motion to approve, Janet seconded, and all voted to approve the June Board minutes.

Pam's President report was as follows:

1. The Master Naturalist license plates are available to order now.
2. The Chapter Management and Operations Protocols document (CMOP) has been updated to indicate that AT and volunteer service need to be within 12 months of initial start date.
3. Upcoming state training sessions include:
 - TMN Tuesday on July 13, Watershed
 - Be the Change on July 20, panel discussion.
4. The virtual volunteer fair will be held August 30-September 1, deadline is July 16 for submissions..
5. The annual meeting is scheduled for October 21-24 at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport Marriott Hotel. It will be a hybrid meeting, offering attendance both in-person and online. All field sessions will be conducted in person. All contests are going to be held, and volunteers will be needed to assist. The fee schedule has not been finalized, but there will be different fees for in-person and online attendees. Registration fees are typically \$300-\$350 for in-person attendance. There will not be a vendor fair. Recordings will be available after the event.
6. Stennie Meadours has asked for guidance on P3 plastic clean-up events. The requirements are: volunteer service form, waivers from all attendees, a place to dispose of the plastic, and a way to report the items collected. It was suggested that the group submit their reports of plastic collected to an organization like Galveston Bay Foundation. Maureen made a motion, Patty seconded, and motion passed to implement the requirements mentioned above.

7. Mohammed Nasrullah has proposed some advanced training classes which would bring in diverse speakers and also allow the chapter to bring in other diverse participants from our community. At present, it is difficult to include outsiders in zoom meetings, and so a solution is needed. Pam supports efforts to bring more diversity to the chapter, and is in favor of adding a Diversity Director to the board. More to be discussed in new business.

Susette's Past President report was as follows:

1. The August chapter meeting will include a history of the pins.
2. The 20th Anniversary pin is available and will be given to anyone who has paid their dues this year. Pins were passed out to the members present.

Meade reported that the archive/historian team is working on the 2020 physical scrapbook to enter into the statewide contest in October.

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

Patty's membership report was as follows:

1. Impacts increased since last month, volunteer service stayed about the same, and AT increased.
2. There are 239 paid members.
3. Chris Anastas reached 4,000 hours.
4. There is a policy change for recording hours over 45 days old. Following is the language proposed:

Membership Director will seek approval from the President, AT Director and Volunteer Services Director. Upon approval, the Membership Director will enter the hours and document the exception in the note section of the approval page within the VMS system.

- Maureen made a motion, Jo seconded it, and all approved the new language.
5. A new opportunity will be set up for Bayside Regional Park.
 6. Diane Humes 15,000 hour plaque is on the way.
 7. Patty has the shirts for Jim Duron and Tom Solomon, to present at the upcoming chapter meeting.

Jo's volunteer service director report was as follows:

1. Volunteer Service opportunities descriptions are still being edited.
2. There have been 3 sidewalk sales for Mel's store, and he is very pleased with the turnout.

Janet's New Class report was as follows:

1. There will be several field trips scheduled in the fall for the 2020 class, which missed field trips in 2020 due to Covid.
 - a. September 23: Texas A&M Trawler
 - b. October 14: Armand Bayou
 - c. November 4 (tentative): Galveston Island State Park

Maureen's communication committee report was as follows:

1. Maureen is writing up instructions for Patty and Cindy, who will be taking over some duties.
2. Facebook posts continue to be popular. Regular posts include: Insects, Prairie, Birds, Coastal Corner, and Stump the Master Naturalist. Green Team will start a regular post.

Julie's sponsor report was as follows:

1. The college intern is working on a project related to sustainable fisheries.
2. The building name change was approved last week.
3. On September 14, 5:30 to 7:30, the master gardeners will have an event to recognize Dr. Johnson.
4. NOAA presented the master naturalists with a plaque in recognition of sea turtle rescue efforts.
5. The meet and greet for the 2022 class will take place in November.
6. Armand Bayou is not charging for use of their classrooms and boat trips for the 2022 class. We made a \$500 donation for use of their facilities for the 2020 class.

Old Business:

1. The August chapter meeting will be a hybrid meeting.
 - a. The zoom team has worked out the technology to make that happen, and will look for ways to incorporate the in-person audience with the zoom audience.
 - b. No food will be served; members can bring drinks.
 - c. Some additional steps will be needed, such as repeating questions asked by the in-person audience members so that the zoom members can hear them.
 - d. Jaime Gonzales is the speaker, and he is very comfortable with technology.
 - e. Steps will be taken to ensure large groups of people are not congregating.
 - f. Mel's store will be set up at the back of the large room.
 - g. Guests will sign in at one table, but sign in sheets for members will be available on the tables inside.
 - h. The meeting will start at 6:00 for socializing, 6:30 business meeting, and speaker at 7:00.
 - i. Awards will be presented before the audience for large milestones such as shirts for Tom Solomon and Jim Duron.
2. Future chapter meetings may take place on weekends, or during the day, in order to make meetings convenient for all members.
3. Zoom AT has been very well received, and will continue. AT classes have been offered at different times and days to allow members to attend. Some AT classes will need to be in person. AT classes need to have a live Q&A portion to count for credit; however the State has waived that requirement for their presentations.
4. Board meetings will alternate: In months with a chapter meeting, the board meeting will be via Zoom, in the other months, the board meeting will be in person.

New Business:

1. The Diversity position was discussed. A new board director requires modification to the bylaws and the chapter operating handbook. Pam would like to ask Mohammed to serve in that capacity, as an interim non-voting director for this year. Then in January the President formally appoints the position, and the board confirms, along with all the other directors. Maureen made a motion, Jo seconded, and all approved adding the diversity director position.
2. Committee composition and leadership review: All committees need a director assigned to oversee their activities. Further, each committee should have a statement of purpose, outlining what the team expects to provide to the chapter, as well as what the board expects the committee to do.
3. Assignments were made or confirmed as follows:
 - a. Advanced Training: Ellen
 - b. Archive: Meade
 - c. Chapter Sales: Cindy
 - d. Communications: Maureen
 - e. Diversity and Inclusion: New Diversity director (Mohammed)
 - f. Education: Jo
 - g. Emeritus: combine with Diversity
 - h. Hospitality: Maureen
 - i. Midden: Maureen (but operates independently)
 - j. Scholarship: Cindy
 - k. Training Class: Janet
 - l. Volunteer Services: Jo
 - m. Green Team: Vice President
4. Committees need charters documented in the Operating Handbook. The following charters are needed, and the individuals noted below will draft them:
 - a. Diversity and Inclusion: Mohammed, Robin, Chris Anastas
 - b. Emeritus (combine with Diversity but maintain the goals of the original committee)
 - c. Scholarship: Susette, Laurinda Kidd, Carolyn Miles, Elizabeth Cornwall
 - d. Education: Maureen, Jo, Cindy
 - e. Green Team: Leann, Sally, Emily
5. Board statement of objectives for each committee follows:
 - a. Scholarship: Announce and award scholarships.
 - b. Education Outreach: Coordinate programs in schools.
 - c. Diversity and Inclusion: Develop programs to expand participation by diverse groups.

Maureen mentioned that some activities are taking place outside of the committee structure, which is developing “backdoor” structures which are not optimal. In addition, Julie stated that having activities coordinated through committees helps her communicate what the chapter is doing, and helps with funding.

Several noted that we need to look for ways to communicate which committees are available, to generate interest with new members, as well as existing members.

Finally, deadlines were reviewed for the upcoming state meeting. Leann's video would be an excellent entry for video. Maureen's Beach Heroes and/or Facebook activity during Covid would be excellent for the Project Fair, which focuses on recognizing activities that a chapter has done that can be adopted by other chapters.

Leann made a motion to adjourn, Walter seconded it, and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Meade LeBlanc