

GBAC Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2021 via ZOOM

Attendees:

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

Not present: Janet Mason, and Sponsor Julie Massey

Guests: None

This represents 90% of the voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 1:01. She welcomed the board to the Zoom meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The August minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Susette to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Scholarships for annual meeting: Maureen and Pam discussed the practice of awarding scholarships to pay for attendance at the state annual meeting, to be awarded to potential future leaders of the chapter. This year, Maureen and Pam proposed awarding two scholarships to unsung heroes of the chapter: Chris Anastas, who is involved in the zoom team, outreach, monarchs, and the diversity team and Cindy Liening, who is always behind the scenes cheerfully taking care of the treasurer business and also helping with Beach Heroes. There was also discussion of offering a scholarship to the president of the chapter, to ensure that individuals can attend to represent the chapter, but the decision was made to reconsider this next year. Maureen made a motion to award full scholarships to attend the state board meeting to these two individuals, Susette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Sponsorship of the annual meeting: Pam stated that the state office requests each chapter donate \$300 to help defray the costs of the annual meeting. The funds that are collected are used to help finance the following year's meeting, since most of the costs are already incurred and paid by the time the chapters make their donations. Walter made a motion that the chapter donate \$300, Maureen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Project for State meeting: Maureen stated that the photo contest awards will be made at the October meeting, and those photos will be submitted for the state contest. Meade, Leann and Cindy Saxenian are working on a scrapbook to submit. Maureen asked Leann to consider making a three minute video out of the year end program to submit. The Project of the Year will be about sea turtles.
5. Updates on committee review, which includes listing the members as well as writing or revising the existing documented purpose for each committee, in about one paragraph, to be shared on the website:
 - a. AT: Ellen stated there is an old charter for the committee.
 - b. Archive: Meade stated that there was a new statement of purpose written earlier this year.
 - c. Chapter Sales: Cindy requested a standard template to be used to document each committee.

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- d. Communications: Maureen has updated the purpose statement to include the zoom team, and redefine the roles.
- e. Diversity and Inclusion: on hold until a diversity leader is on board.
- f. Education: Jo stated there is a statement of purpose in the Chapter Operating Handbook.
- g. Green Team: Mike will document.
- h. Hospitality: Needs review.
- i. Scholarship: Susette documented the purpose.
- j. Training: Janet is out of town. Review later.
- k. Volunteer: Jo stated the purpose is documented in the Chapter Operating Handbook.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nominating committee: Susette reported that her committee includes herself (Past President), Lynn Wright and Chris Anastas. The elections take place at the December chapter meeting, and a notification of nominees is required to be sent 15 days in advance. Susette will first ask the current board members whether they will continue for another year, and then search for other nominees.
2. Exclusivity concerns: A couple of chapter members have expressed concern that they are being excluded from participating in various activities. There was much discussion about how widespread this feeling is, has covid and the lack of in-person meetings affected the ability for people to feel included and welcomed to join existing committees, and so on. There will always be some hurt feelings but we should be intentionally inclusive. Pam suggested we send zoom links to all committee meetings and ask anyone to attend. Patty used to keep a listing of all routine meetings on the website, but many of those have changed with covid. Pam asked that Leann, Cindy and Patty work to bring additional suggestions to the board.

BOARD REPORTS

President (Pam House)

1. Several Community AT sessions upcoming: Green Muslim presentation September 7 and Jaime Gonzales on underserved and minority populations on November 16.

Past President (Susette Mahaffey)

1. The 20th anniversary topic for the October meeting will be about chapter awards. Sara Snell will present it.

Vice President (Mike Petitt)

1. The October meeting topic is the Galveston Bay report card.

Secretary (Meade LeBlanc)

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Cindy Lienen)

1. Cindy provided the financial report. The chapter received \$1000 from Exxon, from Verva's submission, and \$500 from Shell, from Maureen's submission. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Ellen to approve the August financial report. The motion passed unanimously.
 1. Cindy is going to start looking at the 2022 budget.

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Membership (Patty Trimigham)

1. Volunteer service hours are up compared to last month.
2. Advanced training hours are up compared to last month.
3. Impacts are down compared to last month.
4. Year to date results are down in all the categories.
5. 10 new members shown in the report are actually people who have expressed interest in the chapter.
6. Certificates have been delivered and anniversary pins have been mailed.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)

1. Nothing to report.

Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff)

1. 19.25 hours of AT have been offered this year.
2. Upcoming AT include:
 - a. Green Muslim September 7
 - b. Mammoth National Monument in Waco September 15
 - c. Galveston Bay report card October
 - d. Nurdles November 1
 - e. Lots of AT at the state meeting.

New Class (Janet Mason): Pam reported the following from Janet:

1. There are confirmed dates for the 2020 class field trips
2. Planning is underway for the class of 2022. The class of 2020 will be asked to volunteer to help with certain activities.

Communication (Maureen Nolan-Wilde)

1. Facebook has exploded in popularity. There were 8,700 views in the past 28 days. There are over 1,700 followers including the Bolivar Beachcombers and Surfside Scalawags.
2. The communications team will participate in a southeast regional workshop February 2-4 about the value of volunteers to nonprofits. The topic will be sea turtles and the association with the Gulf Center for Sea Turtle Research.

New Class Reps (Walter Meyer, Leann Criswell)

1. No report

Pam will be out of town September 30-October 16. Mike will handle the board meeting and chapter meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam and seconded by Mike. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Meade LeBlanc