

GBAC Board Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2021 via ZOOM

Attendees:

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

Not present: Leann Criswell and Sponsor Julie Massey

Guests: Gene Fisseler and Tyler Coleman

This represents 92% 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 and thanked everyone for attending.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The September 28 minutes that had been emailed to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Janet and seconded by Susette to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.
2. The board discussed the results of the Exclusion Survey.
 - a. Exit interviews to determine why a member leaves the chapter are taking place now.
 - b. Chapter chats to resume in January. Motion was made by Pam and seconded by Jo, and passed unanimously.
 - c. Additional training on chapter structure to be conducted during new class training: Janet stated that in order to add new content, other content would need to be deleted. Pam suggested that as speakers are introduced during the training class, the speaker can also discuss where they fit into the overall structure. Gene Fisseler stated that it is important for the new class members to understand the role of the board members, which are elected, and the committee chairs, which are appointed. Julie is going to cover more information about where the entire organization fits into Agrilife. Chuck Snyder developed an organization chart that is useful and can be referenced. Maureen stated that in a typical year, there is a presentation at the end of class in which all the board members and committee chairs are available to provide further information and answer questions. No further action was recommended.
 - d. Developing a routine email to all members with a summary of chapter activities: This topic generated a lot of discussion. Susette stated that all routine activities should be on the calendar, and reminded all board and committee members to send their information to Patty for inclusion there. Several stated that the chapter has many activities that may change, based on weather, for example, making it difficult to have one email. One email will also be very long and many people may not want to read through all the events they are not interested in. Maureen stated that people are already complaining of too many emails. Pam suggested that we do a better job of encouraging the members to contact the committees of interest and ask to be on those specific emails, and to also ensure all routine activities are on the calendar.
 - e. Spotlighting partner organization at chapter meetings: Tabled for now.

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- f. Member survey: Tabled for now. Leann volunteered to work on questions for the survey.
3. Committee statements of purpose: Pam stated that most are complete. The statements for Emeritus and Diversity will be completed early next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. December meeting: After much discussion about the options, the decision was made to conduct the normal December meeting via zoom and then hold a December picnic/get together on a Saturday afternoon. The state meeting hybrid events did not all go smoothly, so the option of a hybrid chapter meeting was not considered for December.
2. Treasures of the Bay nominations: The awards are typically given at the end of the year. People send nominations to Julie, who reviews with someone else from the chapter, and then plaques are made. Last year the presentations were made on Zoom. Susette will help Julie review the nominations this year. It will be challenging to determine the award recipients because the chapter has not been gathering in person very often.
3. Hanging plaques of names at Carbide has been a challenge. Several members, including Maureen, Patty and Jo, will work on that task in November.
4. Dolphin Challenge: Maureen asked whether a decision has been made about the timing and format for 2022. Many chapter members volunteer time for this event, so it should be announced soon to ensure people are available.

BOARD REPORTS

President (Pam House)

1. The President's meeting was held.
2. TMN Tuesdays are scheduled through the end of the year.
3. Be the change has no upcoming sessions scheduled.
4. Houston will host the annual meeting at the Omni Hotel.
5. The 2022 pin is the Lightning Whelk.
6. "Meeting Owls", which are 360 degree camera/microphone units, are available for loan.
7. The state is updating the CMOP.
8. AT and volunteer service will be counted from 12 months from the initial start of the training class.
9. Chris Anastas sent a nice note thanking the chapter for honoring her.

Past President (Susette Mahaffey)

1. Nothing planned for the December meeting yet because the hope was to have an in-person meeting.
2. Slate of officers for 2022:
 - a. President Pam House
 - b. Vice President Tyler Coleman
 - c. Treasurer Cindy Liening
 - d. Secretary Meade LeBlanc

The slate of officers are due to be sent to all members 3 weeks before the December meeting. Voting takes place at that meeting.

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3. Pam suggested a President's T Shirt award for the member with the most tshirts from partners and a Vice President's award for the member with the most pins.

Vice President (Mike Petitt)

1. Nothing to report.

Secretary (Meade LeBlanc)

1. Nothing to report.

Treasurer (Cindy Lienen)

1. Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Walter and seconded by Patty to approve the October financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Cindy presented the 2022 updated budget. Since the budget contains more expenses than income, a "Board Resolution" line item is needed to balance it. Walter made the motion, Ellen seconded it, and the 2022 budget was approved unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimigham)

1. Three members transferred to the chapter.
2. Impacts are increasing, but still low because people may not be reporting them.
3. Volunteer service is about the same as last year.
4. An updated directory has been distributed.
5. Dues are usually paid in December at the meeting. A decision is needed to instruct members how to renew their dues.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)

1. There has been an increase in members asking about whether certain activities count as volunteer service.

Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff)

1. Upcoming AT include:
 - a. Nurdles November 1
 - b. Mammoth National Monument in Waco November 11
 - c. Community AT November 16

New Class (Janet Mason):

1. The class of 2020 had their second class experience at Armand Bayou Nature Center. 16 new class members attended for pontoon boat ride, fish printing, and prairie training.
2. The Galveston Island State Park event will be postponed due to weather.
3. The new class meet and greet will be held on November 18 at the extension office. 87 people have expressed interest in the 24 available slots.
4. The volunteer luncheon will be on January 20.
5. The new class dates will be February 17 to May 5. Armand Bayou is renovating their auditorium so a new location may be needed for those dates.

Communication (Maureen Nolan-Wilde)

1. Facebook is continuing to grow. Patty is doing Scary Insects. Cindy Howard is doing Coastal Plants. Other weekly posts are Birds, Coastal Corner, and Did You Know.

New Class Reps (Walter Meyer)

1. No report

Sponsor (Julie Massey)

Julie was not in attendance.

The next board meeting will be November 30 at 1 p.m.

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Susette made a motion, Janet seconded, and the motion was passed to adjourn the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Meade LeBlanc