

GBAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2022 via ZOOM

Attendees: Pam House, Tyler Coleman, Leanne Criswell, Ellen Gerloff, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Janet Mason, Jo Monday, Mohammed Nasrullah, Mike Petit, Patty Trimmingham

Sponsor: Julie Massey

Guests: Stennie Meadours and Sandy Parker

A quorum was established with 93% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 10:00 AM. Pam welcomed guests, Stennie Meadours and Sandy Parker. Pam also explained that the Day Away that had been planned in lieu of this meeting would be rescheduled as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Pam reported that Meade agreed to become Communications Director and Mohammed agreed to become the inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Director for the 2022 year. She asked for the board's approval by acclamation, which was provided with enthusiasm.
2. Next, Pam explained that Meade's new appointment required that the position of Secretary be filled, and she asked that the board approve Cynthia Hughes for the job. A motion to approve Cynthia for the position was made by Cindy Liening, seconded by Janet, and was passed unanimously.
3. Pam announced that Mike Petit volunteered to co-chair AT with Ellen, and therefore Pam nominated Mike to become AT co-director with Ellen. Pam's nomination was approved unanimously.
4. Pam reported that Treasurer, Cindy Liening, was preparing final financial documents for the year ended 12/31. As in past years, Carolyn Miles, CPA, would conduct the annual Financial Examination and report her findings to the board.
5. Next, Pam called upon Stennie Meadours and Sandy Parker to update the board on the Bayside Regional Park project. Stennie and Sandy discussed their vision

for the park and the benefits of creating a partnership with Houston Audubon Society. Stennie called the directors' attention to a draft partnership proposal that was circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of inclusion of the under-served communities surrounding the park, coordination with Julie Diaz, the Galveston County Parks Director, and the development of a partnership with HAS. Stennie and Sandy requested board approval to move forward. A motion to proceed with the pursuit of a partnership with HAS was made by Cindy, seconded by Patty, and unanimously approved. The board thanked Stennie and Sandy for their tireless efforts on this worthwhile project.

BOARD REPORTS:

Vice President (Tyler Coleman)

Tyler reported that the next GBAC Chapter Meeting would be held Thursday, February 3rd. The speaker that evening will be Alan Treiman, husband of Diane Humes. Alan's topic: Weird and Beautiful Daytime Phenomena in the Sky. Zoom doors will open at 6:15, the business meeting will commence at 6:30, and the speaker will be introduced at 7:00.

Treasurer (Cindy Liening)

Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Jo and seconded by Mike to approve the December financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty reported that although chapter members have until February 15 to enter 2021 hours, members had outpaced 2020 volunteer hours by about 3,500 hours with 35,637 hours reported so far. She also reported that 90 members (37.5%) had paid dues for 2022. As expected, due to the pandemic, Impact numbers were down for 2021, with 3,763 reported to date. Patty offered to recirculate instructions for reporting Impact experiences, and the board expressed appreciation to her.

Volunteer Service (Jo Monday)

Jo recommended the Clean Swell app for trash cleanups. She also reminded the board to be looking for a Volunteer Service coordinator, as she was in the final year of her term.

Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff and Mike Petit)

Pam thanked Mike Petit for stepping up and performing Zoom duties. Ellen and Mike announced two upcoming AT opportunities: Purple Martins on Thursday, January 27th at 2:00 pm, and Diurnal Raptors on Monday, February 21 at 2:00 pm. Ellen also mentioned that Douglas Tallamy would be speaking

at the Garden Club of Houston's Horticulture Lecture on Wednesday, February 16th at 10:00 am. Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston.

New Class (Janet Mason)

Janet reported that the New Class Volunteer Luncheon on January 20 will be conducted by Zoom, beginning at 10:00 am. She is unsure how the pandemic will affect the training class, but 28 applicants have been chosen, and the committee feels strongly that the training classes need to be conducted in person.

Equity and Inclusion (Mohammed Nasrullah)

Mohammed reported that the next Community AT will be held on Tuesday, January 25th at 6:00 pm. There will be two presenters: "Urban Harvest: Growing the Next Generation of Gardeners" by Carol Burton with a Special Feature: "The Cultivated Classroom at Gregory Lincoln Education Center" by Kellie Karavias. Carol Burton is the Director of Youth Education at Urban Harvest, headquarters located at 3302 Canal Street, Houston. Kellie Karavias is the Culinary Arts Education at Gregory-Lincoln Education Center, located at 1101 Taft Street, Houston. Mohammed mentioned that the AT would be conducted as a standard Zoom seminar with pre-registration required.

Class Reps (Leann Criswell)

Leann reported that she and her team are working on providing a delicious luncheon for the 2022 Class, hopefully on Thursday, February 17th.

Sponsor (Julie Massey)

Julie stated that Dolphin Challenge committee was training and preparing to host the 2022 competition, most probably at the end of March. She is pleased to welcome 8 teams from 5 schools to the event this year. Julie is also planning to hold a three-day Treasures of the Bay Educators' Workshop this summer, and she will be looking for volunteers to make it happen.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Pam announced that the board would meet next on Saturday, January 29th at 10:00 am. She previewed the next meeting by explaining that the focus would be to conduct a review of 2021 and a discussion of chapter goals for 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Hughes