

## **GBAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 1, 2022 via ZOOM**

Attendees: Pam House, Tyler Coleman, Leanne Criswell, Ellen Gerloff, Cynthia Hughes, Meade LeBlanc, Cindy Liening, Walter Meyer, Mohammed Nasrullah, Mike Petitt, Patty Trimmingham

A quorum was established with 84% of voting members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Pam House at 1:00 PM.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The minutes February meeting that had been emailed previously to the board members were offered for discussion. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Mohammad to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

President, Pam House, asked for a formal resolution to approve three officers with the authority to sign checks, with two signatures required. A motion was made by Cynthia and seconded by Ellen. The following motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED, that three Officers of the Board will be approved with check-signing privileges, and two signatures will continue to be required for validation. The Officers will be the President, at this time Pam House, the Vice-President, at this time Tyler Coleman, and the Treasurer, at this time Cindy Liening.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

President (Pam House)

A Chapter Chat would be held on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Pam mentioned that she had asked the Green Team for a report at the chat.

Walter asked for information about the Dolphin Challenge, and Meade mentioned that a report on the Training Class would be helpful.

Ellen offered to send Pam some screen shots of the Advanced Training sessions that were scheduled for March and April.

Next, Pam reported that she would be meeting with presidents from other chapters to tour the Omni Hotel in advance of the TMN Annual Meeting.

Pam also announced that Susette Mahaffey had agreed to continue on the GBAC Board as Past President.

#### Vice President (Tyler Coleman)

Tyler reported that he had lined up Andrew Bennett to discuss the Big Thicket at the next GBAC Chapter Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Andrew J. Bennett serves as the Acting Chief of Resource Management for the Big Thicket National Preserve for the National Park Service.

#### Treasurer (Cindy Liening)

Cindy provided the financial report. A motion was made by Walter and seconded by Ellen to accept the February financial report. The motion passed unanimously.

Cindy also reported that Carolyn Miles, CPA, had not yet set an appointment to conduct her review of the chapter's 2021 financials. Some discussion ensued, but general consensus was that Cindy should give Carolyn a while longer to respond.

#### Membership (Patty Trimmingham)

Patty reported that there were 193 paid members so far for 2022, up from 139 the previous month. Seven more members had recertified. Patty was waiting to receive all recertification pins and GRIT pins before mailing pins to members. Patty was happy to recognize Ellen for reaching 5,000 hours and Cynthia for reaching 1,000 hours of service. She was also pleased to report that contacts had increased significantly for the month, thanks in most part to the Beach Heroes Team.

#### Advanced Training (Ellen Gerloff and Mike Petitt)

Ellen was pleased to note that 400 AT hours had been recorded for February. She and Mike were looking forward to the next AT scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for Birding by Ear. On Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Chris Anastas and Candace Annan would present Monarch Butterfly Topics for the Gulf Coast. And the following AT would be Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, with a presentation on Oysters by the CCA, always a favorite subject for the chapter.

#### Equity Diversity and Inclusion (Mohammed Nasrullah)

Mohammed reported that the next Equity, Diversity & Inclusion AT was set for Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The presentation would feature two speakers. Stephanie Meyers from the Outdoor Foundation and a second speaker from Thrive Outside in San Diego.

#### Communications (Meade LeBlanc)

Meade reported that the reorganized Zoom team was operating well and helping to take some burden off of the original operators. Meade also mentioned that she was looking for someone to post on Facebook once a week with postings on insects, grasses, plants, trees, etc. She would be on the lookout for a volunteer

or two for that role. She would also be looking for similar help with the Smug Mug photo albums, and she would do some recruiting from the 2022 class.

Class Reps (Leanne Criswell and Walter Meyer)

Walter mentioned that he is pleased to notice that their class is becoming more involved all the time. Leanne discussed the luncheon to be provided to the 2022 Class for their first session on March 10<sup>th</sup>. She would be making a final push to organize volunteers for set-up and clean-up, for commitments to bring dishes, and to let everyone know to plan on no kitchen facilities or electrical outlets being available.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Pam mentioned that the Board would want to schedule a Day Away, perhaps early in the summer. She said that Julie hoped the Board would work on a 5 Year Plan for the chapter, and Pam said she would also like to set forth a thoughtful plan to utilize a portion of the Chapter funds that have been accumulating over a period of several years. Some discussion ensued, and the general consensus was positive that these goals were worth pursuing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Cynthia Hughes