



Board Meeting Minutes, December 10, 2020

The meeting was held via Zoom. Board Members participated from their homes.

Call to order 5:00 pm

Present: Don Graves, Wendy Graves, Bill Norris, Elroy Limmer, Joan Limmer, Beth Leuck, Emily Pollom, Les Brandt, Lee Gruber, Jane Spinti, Keller Suberkropp.

Minutes: Minutes from the October 13, 2020 meeting were approved.

Presentation by Lee Gruber, Executive Director of Southwest New Mexico Art, Culture, and Tourism: Lee spoke about the Waterworks property which is just to the east of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. The hope is that the two adjacent properties and organizations (SWNM Arts and GNPS) will find collaborative projects that both organizations can work on jointly to the benefit of both.

Lee spoke about plans for future use of the Waterworks building and outside space. The Southwest New Mexico Art, Culture, and Tourism organization has obtained grant monies from Freeport-McMoRan Mining Company to develop outdoor services at the Waterworks site for hikers using the Continental Divide Trail. Services would include camping sites, composting toilets, solar showers, and a kitchen area. The grounds have been planted with fruit trees and native plants.

Another grant has been obtained to build a pavilion which will be used for education. Additional monies have been obtained to create a plan for extending the Silva Creek Trail from Penney Park to the Waterworks site, and possibly north from there to where the Continental Divide Trail intersects Little Walnut Road. The long range plan includes turning the Waterworks Building into a museum.

Treasurer's Report: Gila Native Plant Society account has a current balance of 9176.32. The Silva Creek Garden Account has a current balance of \$15,909.07.

Representative to Native Plant Society of NM Report: Keller reported there have been no meetings scheduled due to COVID. A Zoom meeting is planned for January or February 2021.

Membership Report: Joan reported that NPSNM has added PayPal as a method of renewing membership dues in an effort to reduce paper mailings.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report: Elroy reviewed progress on the plan to roof the amphitheater area. A contract with the builder has been signed. Approval of the roof plan from the State is expected next week. The builder expects to start construction in early January.

Another round of Elm removal was completed last week in the Northwest corner of the garden which exposed a lovely 15 foot Gamble's Oak. The fence around the storage shed has been completed except for the two gates.

Wendy reported that a Steering Committee has been formed to make recommendations to the Board for future projects at the SCBG. Plans will include how to utilize rainwater as it travels through the garden.

Old Business:

Third addition of Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico by Jack Carter: Printing is completed. 150 boxes of 10 books each are being shipped. Storage is being arranged. Don has written a thank you to all those who worked to revise the 2nd edition and create the new 3rd edition. The Thank you will be inserted under the ad for sale of the new edition which will run in the next State newsletter. GNPS is the sole distributor of the book.

Holiday Video: Don, Wendy, Elroy and Emily have been creating a holiday video of scenery, music and poetry which will be available around December 20th.

New Business:

Election of Officers: A slate of new officers was elected at the November 2020 meeting. Officers elected to start in January, 2021 are Don Graves as President, Wendy Graves as Treasurer, Betty Spence as Secretary, and the Vice President position remains unfilled.

Collaborative Plans with Audubon: Don is on the Audubon Board and will be working on plans for our two organizations to work collaboratively.

Emily reported that schools have put out a request for videos which feature individuals talking about their scientific interests for use in distance learning. Emily has created a video for that purpose and hopes others from Audubon and GNPS will do the same.

Motion to Adjourn at 6:00 PM.

Jane Spinti, Secretary.