



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, March 23, 2021

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

Call to order 4:32 pm

Present: Don Graves, President; Wendy Graves, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Beth Leuck, Elroy Limmer, Joan Limmer, Emily Pollom and Keller Suberkropp; absent: Les Brandt

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of February 24, 2021, were approved.

President's Report: Don said he would report under the specific items of old and new business.

Treasurer's Report: The Gila Native Plant Society account has a current balance of \$12,260.03. The Silva Creek Garden Account has a current balance of \$20,854.83.

GNPS Membership: Joan reported that the Gila Chapter had added 13 new members in the last month, and 6 just in the last week. A new membership list would be received from the state organization at the end of the month.

Social Media: Emily reported that she had held an online session with Betty and Les on how to share GNPS Facebook posts. Betty noted that she was now able to post meeting announcements on Facebook in the Events format.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report: Elroy reported that a small but hard-working crew had shown up for the worday on March 19th and had accomplished what was currently needed in the garden: clean-up, dead-heading, pruning and cutting back on some plants. In addition, the contractor for the amphitheater roof had poured the footings, which would take a little time to set. He had also filled in a cavity discovered under some of the seats, probably due to leakage from an old pipe, long disused.

Public Relations: Betty reported that the usual measures had been taken to publicize the March meeting program. It had been attended by 28 contacts, some of them involving more than one person. (There had been 44 Zoom contacts for the January meeting and 24 for the February meeting.)

Old Business:

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Advertising Card: Don reported that Copies on the Run had quoted a price of 62 cents per card for printing. Patricia Taber of SWNM Audubon had suggested the names of some other printers to be found online that might offer a cheaper price, and Keller said that he had used a printer he had found online in the past. Don said that, if the price difference was not great, we might prefer to use a local provider, but not if there was a substantial difference. However, Copies on the Run might give a quantity discount for a 1,000 copies. Moreover, they had used a high-quality paper in the sample, something to be considered; Joan noted that the paper used must be stiff enough to stand up in display cases. Emily reported that the color printer at WNMU could be used cheaply for small quantities.

Don recalled that the purpose of the advertising card was as something to be used for a year or two, primarily for display at the Silver City Visitors' Center. The garden was not on the map handed out at the Visitors' Center, but Patrick Hoskins, the new director, had assured him that the garden was in the new VC guide.

Give Grandly: Betty reported that Don had attended the March 11th Give Grandly planning meeting in her place. As part of the publicity committee she had drafted a press release, which had been submitted to the Silver City Daily Press and the Grant County Beat. To date 56 non-profits had signed up; non-profits had until the end of March to register. Volunteers were working on developing the new Give Grandly website. The event on May 8th would be primarily virtual, but it might be possible to have Give Grandly tables at the Farmers' Market, the Makers' Market and perhaps a couple of other locations downtown. Don said that he had volunteered to be one of the people interviewed on KURU radio to promote the fundraiser.

World Water Day Activities: Don reported that GNPS, as part of its participation in the World Water Day activities promoted by the Silver City Watershed Keepers, had organized a successful clean-up of the Silva Creek ditch near the garden. Six GNPS members, the entire board of SWNM Act (seven members) and three Americorps volunteers had cleaned out downed branches, brush and garbage from the creek bed. The pile of brush would come in handy in the garden, and Susan Campbell could also use some and would take it away. GNPS would send out thank-you cards to the volunteers.

Gila Earth Day: Don reported that he and Wendy, representing GNPS, were part of the planning group for Earth Day (April 22, 2021). They intended to create a video on "How to Plant a Native Plant." GNPS might also coordinate with Southwest Audubon on a Cliff Swallow project.

GNPS Credit Card: Wendy reported that she was working on the application for a GNPS credit card. The lack of a physical location for GNPS was complicating the process.

New Business:

Native Plant Landscaping Grant Application:

The grant application concerned a project to create a pollinator garden on the applicant's private property. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that GNPS had not in the past made grants purely for the use of private individuals and did not wish to do so in the future. Any project given a grant must benefit the public or the community. It was concluded that the various ideas raised for altering the grant application – ideas including video-taping of the process, pairing it with a public garden project, moving the plot to a publicly accessible spot, allowing public visits – either would not meet the stated needs or would be inadequate to make the application acceptable.

It was acknowledged, however, that the grant criteria as stated on the website were ambiguous and could be misinterpreted by grant applicants.

As a result of the discussion, the Board adopted two motions:

Motion 1: The grant criteria statement should be rewritten and the deadlines extended.

Keller, Beth and Elroy formed a committee. Keller would draft language and pass it to the other two to arrive at a consensus.

Motion 2: The grant application should be rejected, because it did not entail a benefit to the public or the community.

The applicants would be so informed, with an apology for the ambiguity of the grant criteria. They would also be informed of the new deadlines, in the event that they were interested in applying for a grant that would satisfy the rewritten criteria.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.