



## **Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 27, 2021**

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

**Call to order** 5:04 pm

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of March 23, 2021, were approved.

**President's Report:** Don announced that he would be attending the NPSNM board meeting in August at the state conference as the representative of the Gila Chapter in Keller's place.

He noted that attendance at the GNPS program, "Introduction to Liverworts," on May 21<sup>st</sup> was 30 Zoom contacts, a good turn-out. (Some contacts involved two people.)

**Treasurer's Report:** The Gila Native Plant Society account has a current balance of \$11,987.17. The Silva Creek Garden Account has a current balance of \$14,892.19, of which \$1,212.99 is the Healing Garden portion.

**Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report:** Elroy reported that the roof would soon be up over the amphitheatre space, and the information kiosk had been refurbished. There was a need for input for the kiosk display, including perhaps some history. Don noted that Betsy Kaido had done a lot of research on the history of the garden location.

Elroy also reported that the shed area had been better organized. Agaves were blooming and eventually the dead plants would need to be removed; the one in the container might be particularly difficult. The kiosk for children's books had been fixed. Les volunteered to monitor the contents to see that the kiosk contained material appropriate to the garden.

With regard to the Healing Garden, Elroy reported that Naava Koenigsberg's group had been getting plants in the ground, and some labels had been placed. Naava's intention was that the label's should include three names for each plant—in English, Spanish and Apache—the latter required some research. The pergola in the Healing Garden was close to completion.

### **Old Business:**

**Give Grandly:** Betty reported that the Give Grandly fundraising effort had been very successful; a record amount of donations had been received: \$260,685 overall. The Gila Native Plant Society had brought in \$2,860 in donations (including the \$500 matching fund) from 48 donors – a considerably higher amount than last year. The checks would be distributed at a general meeting of the participating nonprofits in mid-June.

Wendy said that GNPS would be sending both a thank-you card with a photo by Elroy and a tax voucher letter to our donors.

**Gila River Festival:** Don reported that GNPS would offer a field trip to the Silva Creek Botanical Garden as part of the Gila River Festival. Betsy Kaido and Don and perhaps others would lead the field trip and talk about the history of the garden, plants and pollinators, as well as addressing the topic of better irrigation.

There was a discussion about sponsorship of the River Festival. The possibility was raised of contributing more than in previous years. Since the approach of the keynote speaker, Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, was so relevant to GNPS purposes, it was decided that Don and Wendy would investigate the possibility of a joint sponsorship with Southwestern New Mexico Audubon of the keynote speaker.

### **Committee to revisit Native Plant/Landscaping Grant RFP and application instructions:**

Keller said that he would be sending a revised draft to the other members of the committee (Beth and Elroy). The draft criteria would emphasize value to the community.

### **New Business:**

**Wish list for the landscape architect:** A document containing the consolidated wish list from the SCBG Steering Committee for approval by the GNPS Board prior to sending to David Cristiani, landscape architect, was distributed prior to the board meeting. Wendy explained that the wish list represented guidance to the landscape architect. It was hoped that he would come up with a plan to be implemented in stages. It would be based on a water flow study.

The wish list met with general approval. With regard to point 3) about eliminating non-native grasses, Don said that he would like to include the elimination of aggressive native grasses as well. With regard to point 8) about a design element for children, Don emphasized that the Education Committee should be brought into that discussion. However, it was recognized that educators had the creativity to think of ways to use the entire garden space for teaching children and were not limited to one specifically designed element. Wendy proposed sending around a revised draft incorporating those changes for approval by the board, and that was agreed to.

**Field trips/presentations for the fall:** Don recalled that in the past it had been the responsibility of the Vice-President to arrange for GNPS programs. Currently there were no willing candidates for Vice-President. He proposed that it might be more effective, in any case, to have a program committee to plan field trips and evening programs. After a discussion in which it was noted that the membership of a program committee need not be limited to board members, a vote was taken.

**Motion: A Program Committee shall be formed to plan field trips and evening programs.**

**Native Plant Sale:** The Plant Sale Committee had scheduled a native plant sale for September 18, 2021, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and had reserved the parking lot on the corner of Pope and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets across from Gough Park. Don had sent out feelers to vendors, some of whom had already confirmed. It was hoped to have five native plant vendors selling directly to the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.

**Appendix:**

**Motion adopted by the Board by email exchange on May 28-29, 2021**

**Motion 1: A picnic will be held in tribute to Richard Felger using the memorial fund for catering.**

Note: Silke Schneider has reserved the Gomez group picnic area for Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Motions adopted by the Board by email exchange on June 5-6, 2021**

**Motion 2: The revised wishlist from the SCBG Steering Committee for the landscape architect is approved ([see attached](#)).**

The changes from the version circulated before the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting are (a) the addition of the italicized languages in point 3) Eliminate non-native grasses and *native grasses that are overly aggressive (eg. Elymus elymoides)*; (b) deletion of the problematic reference to design elements for children in point 8); and (c) the addition of a general sentence to the overview statement which expresses a desire to have a botanical garden that is a welcoming place for families and people of all ages.

**Motion 3: GNPS will make a donation of \$500 to the Gila River Festival in order to be included at the Sponsor level.**

**Motion 4: The printing of 100 additional copies of the Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region at a cost of approximately \$470 is approved.**