



Board Meeting Minutes, Monday, August 23, 2021

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

Call to order 5:05 pm

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

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2021, were approved.

President's Report: Don reported that some of our new members had attended the conference. Some were also working at the garden and had designed posters. It was great to have active new members.

His other remarks concerned old and new business – see those items below.

Treasurer's Report: The Gila Native Plant Society account has a current balance of \$15,180.88. The Silva Creek Garden Account has a current balance of \$28,555.76, of which \$1,208.43 is the Healing Garden portion. The final total received in donations from Give Grandly, minus any fees, was \$3,158.43.

Representative to NPSNM: Don had substituted for Keller at the NPSNM board meeting held at the conference. Keller had asked to be allowed to retire from the position of representative and Betty had agreed to assume the responsibility beginning with the NPSNM board meeting in January 2022.

Membership: Joan said that the chapter had 167 members at last count. Don noted that all the chapters had gained some members during the pandemic – good news.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report: Denise Friederick had made a new plexiglass cover for the bulletin board in the garden. It was still uncertain when the roof over the amphitheater would be finished. Another work day was planned for early September.

Old Business:

Gila River Festival: Don reported that GNPS had given \$500 as a sponsor of the Gila River Festival. However, since Don had agreed to be the moderator for speaker Doug Tallamy (author

of *Bringing Nature Home*), with Betty as backup, the organizers would list GNPS as a major sponsor. That presentation would be on Sunday, September 19th, at 4:00 pm.

Presentations at the Gila River Festival would be virtual, but there were live field trips and workshops. GNPS would offer two field trips to the Silva Creek Botanical Garden as part of the Festival. Naava Koenigsberg would lead the field trip on Sept. 18th to showcase the medicinal plant area. Don, Wendy and Elroy would lead the field trip on Sept. 19th to discuss other aspects of the garden.

Native Plant/Landscaping Grant RFP and application instructions: On July 2, 2021, Keller circulated a revised Request for Proposals and revised Grant Application Requirements for GNPS native plant grants, the result of the work of the committee of Keller, Beth and Elroy. A number of changes were suggested by Board members by email and generally agreed upon, including correction of a typo, submission of applications by email, language that “projects should benefit the community” and the mention of the plants that would be “used, studied or protected.”

An issue brought up then had not been resolved, namely, the deadline dates of March 1 and October 1 for submission of applications. After discussion, it was agreed that deadline dates were not needed as long as it was stated that GNPS would need up to two months to review the application.

The question was raised whether the organizers of certain repeated events or causes that GNPS always sponsored, such as the Gila River Festival or the Natural History of the Gila Symposium, should not need to go through the regular application process.

Wendy said that she would send out new versions of the Request for Proposals and the Grant Application Requirements for approval by email. The issue of grants for special events could be discussed separately.

[Subsequently, Wendy produced a list of events or groups that GNPS has traditionally supported, according to our financial records:

Children's Water Festival (UGWA)
Gila River Festival
Natural History of the Gila Symposium
Earth Day (GRIP)
Gila Conservation Coalition
Mimbres Region Arts Council
Scholarships for Biology Majors]

Field Trips/Presentations for the Fall: Don announced that Russ Kleinman had agreed to lead a GNPS field trip on September 11th.

On the third Friday in October (Oct. 15th) there would be a joint Southwestern Audubon/Gila Native Plant Society program via Zoom with a presentation by Bat Conservation International's Dan Taylor describing restoration efforts of *Agave palmeri* and *Agave parryi* in southwestern New Mexico to support nectivorous bat populations. That was a topic that should interest both groups.

[It has since been confirmed that Daniela Roth, New Mexico State Botanist, has agreed to do a presentation for us via Zoom on November 19th on the status of *Allium gooddingii*, an endangered plant in New Mexico, following the five large fires that have occurred in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests since 2006.]

If conditions allow, we will have a Holiday Party/Volunteer Appreciation event in December.

Betty asked about the progress in creating a Program Committee to plan field trips and presentations. Don said that there were ideas in the works that could be discussed at the next board meeting.

Native Plant Sale: Don reported that the Plant Sale Committee was working hard on organizing the native plant sale on September 18, 2021, including creating banners and signs to direct people to the site. Don had secured an ad in the September Desert Exposure and the Mimbres Messenger, possibly in the Independent. Margie Gibson had created a poster design, and Don was rounding up a crew to distribute plant sale posters in Silver City, Mimbres, Cliff, Glenwood, Bayard, Santa Clara, Kingston and Hillsboro.

Betty would continue the publicity through MailChimps to members, a press release in the Silver City Daily Press, notices in online calendars and posts on Facebook.

New Business

Comprehensive Strategic Planning: Don said that the board needed to think about the future. How do we sustain the organization? How can we attract members of different ages, different groups? How can we bring together all stakeholders? For that some comprehensive strategic planning was needed. The Board might think about hiring a facilitator, who could help us to figure out how to involve other people from the community, including, for instance, ranchers and hunters. Beth knew a facilitator in Michigan for whom she had great respect. However, did the facilitator need to be someone from the Southwest?

It was agreed that the issue deserved further consideration. It was also pointed out that the state organization should be consulted – indeed, it should be thinking along those lines, too.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Appendix:

Motion adopted by the Board by email exchange on July 13-14, 2021

Motion 1: The Board approves an additional \$1,000 to defray the costs of the Celebration of Life for Richard Felger on July 31st.

Motion adopted by the Board by email exchange on Aug. 3-18, 2021

Motion 2: The Board approves the fee proposal from David Cristiani for a site study and landscaping plan for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.