



Board Meeting Minutes, Monday, December 6, 2021

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

Call to order 4:05 pm

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

Minutes: Minutes from the October 5, 2021, meeting were approved.

President's Report: Don thanked the outgoing board members Les, Joan, Emily and Keller, whose terms would expire at the end of the year. They had expressed a willingness to be active in other ways. Joan would continue to track GNPS membership changes until a replacement could be found.

Don reported that he was no longer on the board of Southwestern New Mexico Audubon but would continue to be a liaison. 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 \$15,996.19. The Silva Creek Garden Account has a current balance of \$29,412.38, of which \$1,138.43 is the Healing Garden portion.

Representative to the board of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico: Betty had agreed to take Keller's place as Gila Chapter representative to the NPSNM board effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden: Elroy reported that a fourth-grade class from José Barrios had come to the garden to release some native butterflies that they had raised. That was a worthwhile project, but he felt that it could have been a better learning experience for the students. In the future, Covid permitting, perhaps GNPS could try for a collaboration with teachers at José Barrios.

Old Business:

Native Plant/Landscaping Grant (Bayard Public Library): Sonya Dixon, Director of the Bayard Public Library, had sent a [letter](#) explaining that the [proposed grant](#) proceeds of \$500 would be

used for the design and construction of a rain garden specifically for native plants, to be watered by rainwater diverted off the roof of the library. She also sent a picture of a “prototype dream” rain garden.

Elroy asked how big the proposed rain garden would be. Don said that he understood it would be a relatively small area, less than one quarter of the 2004 sq. foot empty lot to be developed. Elroy noted that the use of crusher fines mentioned in the letter might be impractical, since they would tend to wash away; river rock might work better. He thought GNPS would like to see the plan prior to construction, but it was agreed that we would not make that a prerequisite for disbursing the funds. Don said he was sure that Sonya would welcome any advice GNPS might have for the rain garden. The following motion was passed:

Motion: The Board approves the grant of \$500 to the Bayard Public Library for the design and construction of a rain garden on the lot next to the library, on the understanding that the plants placed in the garden will be native plants. We would request to see the plan of the rain garden prior to construction.

Strategic Planning: Don said that discussion of strategic planning was on the back burner until next year.

Beginner’s Guide to Landscaping with Native Grasses of the Gila Region: Don said that he would like the next in our Beginner’s Guide series to cover native grasses, possibly 10 to 15 species, and to emphasize landscaping values rather than range foraging information. When the project had been mentioned to Tom Stewart, NPSNM President, he had said that was something he would like to make available to all the chapters.

Wendy noted that there was some interest by member chapters in adapting our Beginner’s Guide to Landscaping with Native Perennials of the Gila Region to their specific regions.

Waterworks/Plants List/Volunteer Hours: Don said that he was in contact with Bridgett Johns of SWNM Act about landscaping of the Waterworks property, which had been expanded by five acres with the acquisition of the adjoining Royal Scepter property. Bridgett Johns would like a list of plants to be used. The Silva Creek Botanical Garden and SWNM Act could share tools. Given the current Covid outlook, it was agreed that it was premature to involve the school. Eventually a proposal could be worked out to be presented to José Barrios Elementary School for using the Waterworks and SCBG for educational purposes.

New Business:

Gila Watershed Partnership in Safford, AZ: Don reported that he, Wendy and newly elected board member Susan Thompson had recently gone to the Gila Watershed Partnership’s native plant sale. Noting that the Partnership had some plants for sale that the vendors in our September plant sale did not have, they asked whether the organizers would be interested in coming to our plant sale in 2022. Gila Watershed Partnership does contract plant-raising; for example, they are raising agaves for the bat conservation project. However, they expressed interest in participating in our plant sale, since increasing public awareness of landscaping with native plants was part of their mission.

Bat Conservation International: Don has been in contact with Dan Taylor of Bat Conservation International to see if GNPS could help in using the project for educational purposes.

Nature's Best Hope Initiative: The SCBG Garden Operations Team held a brainstorming session about a list of plants that both the Waterworks and SCBG should use to encourage pollinators and to create groups of plants valuable for pollinators.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Appendix: Motions adopted by email exchange since the October 5th meeting

Motion adopted by email on October 8, 2021

The minutes of the meeting of August 23, 2021, were approved.

Motion adopted by email October 16, 2021

The proposed policy for acquiring art for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden was approved as set forth in the draft submitted on October 16, 2021 ([see attached](#)).

Motion adopted by email October 18, 2021

The description of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Operations Team was approved as set forth in the draft submitted on October 18, 2021 ([see attached](#)).

Motion adopted by email Nov. 27, 2021

Due to the high number of Covid infections in Grant County, the fears of the new variant Omicron, and uncertainty about what the Governor might decide regarding large gatherings, GNPS should cancel its booking at the Commons for December 12th and not hold a holiday gathering in December 2021.