



Board Meeting Minutes, Friday, January 14, 2022

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

Call to order 3:05 pm

Present: Don Graves, President; Wendy Graves, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Mary Barrett, Margie Ann Gibson, Beth Leuck, Elroy Limmer, Susan Thompson; absent: Rick Lass

Minutes: Minutes from the December 6, 2021, meeting were approved.

President's Report: Don welcomed the new Board Members at Large.

Treasurer's Report: Wendy reported that the Gila Native Plant Society account as of 12/31/2021 had a balance of \$13,529.25. The Silva Creek Garden Account as of the end of 2021 had a balance of \$29,412.38, of which \$1,138.43 was the Healing Garden portion. However, a check for \$9,440 had been written this month to cover the last payment on the amphitheater shade structure.

The Edward Jones investment account had done very well in 2021 because of the good market. Elroy recalled that the investment account had been set up early in the century at the instigation of Jack Carter, at that time a very active member of GNPS.

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. She reported that the first 2022 session of the state Board would be taking place by Zoom in two parts on Jan. 16 and 22.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden: Don said that a couple of people had stepped forward to volunteer on the Garden Operations Team, including Margie, who was taking charge, among other things, of maintaining the SCBG bulletin board. Margie said that she saw the bulletin board as a space for educational items, not policy statements, but including upcoming activities and information on how to get involved. She asked Mary Barrett, who agreed, to help working up the information on the Gila Chapter. It was agreed that it would not be necessary for the GNPS board to review each time what was posted there.

Wendy reported that the landscape architect would make a presentation on his ideas for the garden to the Garden Steering Committee on the third Thursday of February.

Old Business:

Beginner's Guide to Landscaping with Native Grasses of the Gila Region: Don reported that Denise Friedrick had agreed to do 15 black-and-white illustrations of grasses for the Guide.

Waterworks/Plants List: Don said that he was in contact with Bridgette Johns of SWNM Act and had sent her a letter with the GNPS's views about landscaping of the Waterworks property. SWNM Act would like help in developing a list of good pollinator plants for the property. They had the funds and would like to buy the plants by April. It would also be good to have some signage, since hikers would be coming to use the property.

Strategic Planning: Mary thought that strategic planning would be helpful. Beth said she was still in favor, but thought that we should put off the exercise for a while because of the current Covid situation. In response to a query about whether the state organization was working on strategic planning, Elroy explained that NPSNM had a limited structure, with no office and no full-time staff; the NPSNM Board met only twice a year.

New Business:

Native Plant Sale 2022: Don said that the autumn plant sale last year had been a great success, and the vendors had expressed an interest in doing it again about the same time period in September. Sept. 10th was a possible date. We would want to avoid conflict with the auto show or another big event that would occur near Gough Park. The Plant Committee had done a terrific job last year and he was confident the members would volunteer again.

Facebook: Betty said that she needed help with the GNPS Facebook page, or perhaps someone with good social media skills might take it over. In terms of policy, she felt that the Facebook page should be educational and not political so as not to incur controversy. Don suggested that we might reach out to the membership to find a volunteer.

Book Sales of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*: Wendy noted that one of our large physical assets was the stock of volumes of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*, 3rd Edition, by Jack Carter stored in a locker in the By-Pass Storage facility. We needed to think of more ways to place copies. Don said that sales had been difficult during the pandemic, but some of our regular venues, such as the Cliff Dwellings Monument book store, would probably be taking more this year. Although we had taken out a large amount from the investment account to have the third edition printed, we had more than made up that amount in the increased value of the account; we might consider giving away some copies, perhaps to biology students at the University or at the next native plant conference. There was general support for the idea of donating some of our stock in appropriate places.

Other Business:

Give Grandly 2022: It was agreed that GNPS would participate in the Give Grandly non-profit fundraiser again in May this year and that Betty would be the GNPS representative to Give Grandly meetings. However, there are many ways to participate. More information will be forthcoming as the event gets nearer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.