



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The meeting was held at the home of Don and Wendy Graves

Call to order 3:00 pm

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

Minutes: Minutes from the Board meeting on August 25, 2022, were approved.

Old Business:

Amendments to the Bylaws: Betty reviewed the amendments to the Bylaws that she and Margie were proposing to the Board, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Aside from some incidental changes, there were two main reasons for amending the Bylaws. One was the need to change the description of the duties of the Vice-President, who would no longer be the chief person responsible for organizing programs but would serve primarily as a support to the President. The Vice-President would not be expected to succeed the President. There was also a need to provide a mechanism for replacing a Board Member at Large who withdrew or could no longer serve.

The Board found the amendments to be useful. The membership would be informed by email of the proposed amendments in October and vote on them at the November meeting. In response to a question by Elroy, it was clarified that under Article XI of the Bylaws amendments could be proposed at any time of year and voted on by the membership after a month's written notice.

Motion: The Board approves the proposed amendments to the Bylaws for submittal to the vote of the general membership.

Native Plant Sale Update: Don reported that the native plant sale on Sept. 10th had gone well. If it seemed that there were more plants left unsold compared to last year's sale, that was because far more plants had been brought to sell. The vendors had said they were satisfied with their sales. The owners of Spadefoot Nurseries, absent this year because of a conflicting commitment, had expressed an interest in coming back next year. Most probably next year's sale would be scheduled the weekend prior to the Gila River Festival.

Holiday Gathering: Don reported that he had not been able to reach someone at The Commons yet to reserve our date in December for a holiday gathering.

Website Maintenance: Wendy reported that Madeleine Woodward had started working on our website maintenance and had posted the minutes approved at the last meeting. In response to questions, it was recalled that at the last meeting the Board had decided temporarily not to set a limit on the number of hours Madeleine could work on our website in a month until we had a better idea how much time she would usually take. Her hourly rate of \$21.40 was considered very reasonable. Betty said that she had some material ready to send to Madeleine for posting.

Suggested Program Speakers/Topics (2022/2023): The list of speakers had been circulated prior to the previous board meeting. Some of the speakers on the list were tentative as to dates. Since then Ann Audry had firmed up her commitment to give a presentation on February 17, 2023, on “Native Trees for Silver City: Ten Best Practices for Using Native Trees in Urban Environments to Improve Climate Change Resilience.”

Forming a Field Trip Committee: Don reiterated that it was necessary to have a field trip committee since at present there was no one individual qualified and willing to undertake the task of identifying places for field trips and leading them.

Forming a Program Committee: Betty said that there were three skills needed for a program committee: someone to do the secretarial follow-up work with the presenters; someone with technological skills to run a Zoom or coordinate with the WNMU team in the case of a live meeting; and someone to come up with ideas – there were plenty of people to consult on that. Don and Wendy had already set us up with speakers/topics through the spring of 2023. Don emphasized that there needed to be a mix of programs; not all members were interested in highly technical botanical subjects.

Forming a Committee to Draft Guidelines for Group Use of SCBG: Margie reported that some members of the SCBG Operations Team had made suggestions, but no one had volunteered to spearhead the effort. Don thought that it would be sufficient for Margie to collect those suggestions and pass them on to the Education Committee.

Formal Request to Town of Silver City for Restroom (s) in Virginia Street Park (across the street from SCBG): Wendy recalled that the Board had voted at the Aug. 25th meeting to make that request, but the issue was currently on hold.

New Business:

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Updates: Don reported that he and Wendy had volunteered to serve as joint Presidents of NPSNM for a term of two years beginning January 1, 2023. The current President, Tom Stewart, had served three terms and was determined to retire from the post, and no other candidate for President had been found. Don and Wendy had offered to fill the gap provided Tom would serve as Treasurer, another empty post. A candidate for Vice-President had been found, and Jane Kruse, one of our members, would continue as Secretary. The slate would be announced in the 4th quarter state newsletter.

GNPS Slate of Officers: The Nominating Committee had so far found candidates for three of the four posts: Margie for President, Betty for Secretary, and Dave Becker for Treasurer. The membership would be informed in October and vote at the November meeting.

Other Business:

Arizona Native Plant Society: Mary had attended the AZNPS event “Late Summer in the Chiracahua Mountain” Sept. 17-19, 2022, and had found it very worthwhile. GNPS should publicize more of the AZNPS events.

Further Plant Sales by Our Vendors: Don had promised the vendors who had sold at our GNPS plant sale that he would publicize their further sales efforts this fall. For instance, the Gila Watershed Partnership was holding a virtual plant sale in Safford in October. Don said he had information from the other vendors as well, and Betty promised that she would get out a MailChimp to the members.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.