



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 2:00 pm

The meeting was held at the home of Margie Gibson, President

Call to order 2:05 pm

Present: Margie Gibson, President; Cathleen Norman, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Don Graves, Past President; Beth Leuck; Elroy Limmer; Marty Eberhardt represented by a proxy given to Margie Gibson; absent: Rick Lass

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Board meeting of October 10, 2023, were approved.

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Prior to the meeting, Cathleen circulated a Treasurer's reports for October 2023. Among other information, she reported that the Gila Native Plant Society checking account as of 10/31/2023 had a balance of \$1,750.77. The Silva Creek Botanical Garden checking account as of 10/31/2023 had a balance of \$11,365.35, including the Medicinal Garden. The GNPS money market account had a balance of \$15,797.45, and the SCBG money market account had a balance of \$21,044.33. The total asset balance including Edward Jones and other accounts as of 10/31/2023 was \$98,464.06.

Committee and other reports as submitted:

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Report for September 2023:

Prior to the meeting, Marty circulated the following report in writing:

Lots happened in October. We worked hard on the Trails Plus grant and submitted it on October 13. We're hoping to hear before Christmas, but there is no set date that we'll hear, since these are rolling grants. Denise Smith deserves lots of thanks for her assiduous work on this, as does Wendy, who did the work to get NPSNM a federal ID number.

Naava and the YCC have begun work on the butterfly garden. Heart of the Gila has raised more than \$2,000 thus far. The YCC has also been working on the trail from the garden to the creek.

The Steering Committee and Management Team met to discuss the idea of the four-person Management Team experiment. These four people have been tasked with the maintenance of

the existing gardens formerly done by Elroy alone. The consensus is that it's not working... Margie has too many other responsibilities, as do Susan and Naava, as they're both implementing new gardens. Susan Thompson did the majority of the watering. The team will meet to come up with a job description for a garden maintenance person. Then the Steering Committee will discuss strategy. I will meet with Bridgette at Waterworks about how to approach the Town for funding for a maintenance position for the short and long term. Waterworks has a part-time paid person.

A second fundraising letter for Phase I of the Garden Master Plan will go out on December 1.

Total hours for four people plus Denise Smith (Margie's grant hours are recorded elsewhere):
149

Education Committee Report: Prior to the meeting, Don Graves had circulated the following Education Committee report prepared by Karen Valentine:

On Friday, 10-27-23, the Education Committee presented a hands-on introduction to about 35 fourth graders and their teachers (Melissa Hughes and Ben Duran) from Jose Barrios Elementary. We had three rotating stations for each class: nature art with Les Brandt, "What are Native Plants and Learning Examples" by Ed Valentine, and a quick garden tour and selected plant identification by Karen Valentine. The students spent one hour at the garden in small groups of 5 or 6 and did drawings and took notes while learning about native New Mexico plants and pollinators. We even observed a few Monarch caterpillars eating milkweed in the butterfly garden! We had excellent support from GNPS volunteers Cat Norman and Susan Malter with group transitions and timing. We are interested in a follow-up visit with the same group to observe the garden in different seasons and continue our plant and pollinator discussions.

Publicity Report for October-November

Prior to the meeting, Betty circulated the following brief report in writing:

Publicity was organized for the GNPS programs in October and November through MailChimps to members, press releases to the Silver City Daily Press and the Grant County Beat, notices posted on four online calendars and a post on the GNPS Facebook page. MailChimps were also sent to promote fundraising for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden and to advise members about the lunch social in the garden.

Ongoing Business:

Election of Board Members at Large: In keeping with Article VII of the Bylaws, Board Members at Large are to be elected at the November evening meeting this year, for terms to begin January 1, 2024, ending December 31, 2026, and the Board is responsible for putting together a slate of candidates to present to the membership for a vote. (The officers will continue in office

for another year and stand for election in 2024.) Of the present Board Members at Large, Marty Eberhardt and Elroy Limmer have agreed to stand for election again. Margie has persuaded three new candidates to complete our slate: Dinah Demers, David Phillips and Stacy Sollisch.

A volunteer is needed to keep track of the votes at the meeting. People attending the meeting online should indicate their vote and whether there were two votes with one online window via Chat.

Bylaws: According to the Bylaws, nominations can be received from the floor at the meeting when elections are held. That arrangement is awkward, since it is difficult to ascertain whether the person suddenly nominated is truly interested in serving and knows what he or she is getting into. Margie suggested that a better arrangement might be to stipulate that the Board would call for volunteers interested in serving on the Board at the evening meeting one month ahead of the elections; that would allow time to talk with potential candidates.

Board Training: In an email to Board members dated October 25, 2023, Margie explained the rationale for having a board training session for both new and current GNPS Board members. GNPS has had a significant change in our modus operandi, an organizational shift from having no financial concerns to committing to a capital campaign that costs more than we currently have in funds. We've also had a substantial Board turnover and have new people willing to join us. Marty organized a phone meeting with Sunny Yates of the firm of Effective Environments, Consultants to Nonprofits, Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs, to discuss a board training session. As a result, Margie circulated by email prior to this meeting Sunny Kellerman's proposal for a three-hour session at a cost of \$600 and Sunny's bio. Sunny assures us the training will be interactive and not dry. The cost is in line with experienced local facilitators.

Margie proposed that instead of a January board meeting, we have board training at the UU from 9-12 on Wednesday, January 10th, or 1 to 4 on Thursday, the 11th. These dates are available.

Motion: The Board approved the proposal for a board training session in January with one abstention.

Contract for Butterfly Garden Benches: Prior to the meeting, a proposal prepared by Zoe Wolfe for two benches for the Butterfly Garden in SCBG was circulated to the Board members. The benches would be made out of concrete and decorated with custom tile and would cost \$2000 each plus GRT tax. One bench would be paid for by Heart of the Gila. Margie reminded the Board members that the budget for this had already been approved, and she asked for formal agreement that a contract could be signed.

Motion: The Board approved the contract with Zoe Wolfe to create the benches.

Book Sales: Because of some difficulties with shipping costs on book orders processed through PayPal, Rick and Wendy were asking the Board's approval to increase the price on large books by \$1. The Board agreed that it was a reasonable solution.

New Business:

Borderlands: Margie explained that Borderlands Nursery and Seed in Patagonia had an interesting collection of plants for sale. Discussion with Borderlands suggested that the nursery would be willing to make a delivery to Silver City if a number of plants were ordered online. Borderlands also grows plants for Bat Conservation International. Don mentioned that Gila Watershed Partnership also grows plants for BCI, and Steve Plath should be brought into the conversation.

Other Business:

Gila Symposium: Beth reminded the Board that the Natural History of the Gila Symposium 2024 was coming in February, and she offered to be the GNPS representative once again.

Motion: The Board approved Beth Leuck as GNPS representative to the Gila Symposium.

Holiday Potluck: The Holiday Potluck was going to be held on December 10th at the Women's Club, which had been reserved with a deposit. Elroy's offer to fix his traditional pork roast was gladly accepted. It was decided that a cooler with iced tea would be provided. The timing would be from 11 am to 3 pm, with set-up at 11 and dining at noon.

Garden Notes: Cathleen said that the purchase of a lawnmower was on hold until spring. Elroy reported that there was as yet no power source, although an electrical hook-up had been discussed with the Town.

State Newsletter: Margie provided an article and pictures about the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Master Plan for the NPSNM newsletter. The state newsletter editor was asking Elroy for additional photos.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.