



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 2:00 pm

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

Call to order at 2:00 pm

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

Committee and other reports as submitted:

Publicity Report: Prior to the meeting, Betty circulated the following report in writing for the period Aug. 8 to Sept. 12:

August saw the fruits of the work done earlier, including ads, a press release for the plant sale, and two fine articles in the Silver City Daily Press about the open house for the garden Master Plan.

The Mail Chimps sent to members since Aug. 8th announced two pop-up field trips, a call for volunteers for agave planting, and a garden work party.

Betty was working on gathering information about the GNPS programs in October and November to send to Betsy Kaido for the fourth quarter GNPS Bulletin.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Report for August 2023: Prior to the meeting, Marty Eberhardt circulated the following report in writing:

The month began with the public kick-off for the Master Plan. We all went to a planning session on the 4th, and participated on the 5th. Despite the ridiculously high temperatures, we had about 70 visitors, some genuine interest, and a good article in the *Silver City Daily Press*.

Susan Campbell has been working hard on the Habitat Thicket. The irrigation has been installed, although not hooked up. Susan is growing plants at home, and has put in about sixty thus far. She's also working on the interpretation for the garden. The YCC will be helping with the trail

and the rest of the planting. Susan will be out of state from October 15 until March, so she is trying to get as much done as she can before then.

Naava Koenigsburg made a trip to Las Cruces to get flagstones for the butterfly in the Butterfly Garden. The YCC will also be helping with the pathways there. They are rotating our projects into their other scheduled work. The Heart of the Gila will be starting its fundraising campaign for the garden this month (Naava sits on their board). Zoe Wolfe will be creating the tile benches.

Total SC hours in August: 105.5 (this includes 57 from Susan Campbell).

Discussion: Marty said that the Steering Committee felt strongly that Susan Campbell should be given some money for all her efforts. Margie suggested that GNPS could give her \$200 as a gift in appreciation.

Motion: The Board approved the gift of \$200 to Susan Campbell in appreciation for the great number of hours she has spent toward the development of the Habitat Thicket in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

Ongoing Business:

Funding Request for Finishing the Habitat Garden: Prior to the meeting Marty had circulated a paper laying out the revised estimate of expenses, totaling \$5,137, needed to complete work on the Habitat Garden. She explained that the estimate was a little lower than that submitted earlier. The Steering Committee budgeted for steel benches instead of the more expensive tile benches in the original estimate. Not included was the money for the large introductory sign to the section, since it was more economical to have all the large signs for the garden made at the same time. The Board members agreed that the budget sounded reasonable.

Motion: The Board approved the revised funding request for finishing the Habitat Garden in the amount of \$5,127 as submitted on September 12, 2023.

Description of the Board of Directors: Prior to the meeting Margie had circulated a document entitled "Interested in Serving on the Gila Native Plant Society's Board of Directors? Here's What You Need to Know." She designed it to be given to potential Board members so they would understand what was entailed if they decided to serve. Board members agreed that it was a useful document. Don suggested that, in the list of committees, we should stipulate "Native" Plant Sale. Betty asked whether the State Board Representative would have to be a Board member; it was clarified that the Representative would not have to be on the Board but would be required to report to the Board twice a year following the NPSNM Board meetings.

GNPS Board Policies in Effect: Prior to the meeting Margie had circulated a document collating the Board policies that had been adopted at various times in the last 20 years. She thought that Board members needed to be aware of the policies and to consider any necessary updates.

Conservation Topics at General Meeting: The policy was approved as written.

Conservation Letters: Board members felt that any letter written on a conservation issue on behalf of GNPS should be handled through the Conservation Committee.

Membership List and Advertising: For clarification regarding the policy not to advertise for others, the term “private companies or organizations” should be changed to “for-profit companies or organizations,” since we often publicize the events of other non-profit organizations. In order to allow for possible exceptions, the proviso “unless approved by GNPS Board” should be added.

Expenditures without Board Approval: It was remarked that, although the limit of \$200 applied to most expenditures, the Board had agreed to allow the Steering Committee to spend up to \$500 without specific Board approval, and the policy should be amended accordingly.

Grants Policy: It was agreed that the minimum of \$50 and maximum of \$500 set in 2004 should be updated to a minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$1,000. Rather than following NPSNM procedure, we would follow our own procedures as already set out on our website.

Payment for Speakers: The policy, adopted recently, was approved as written.

Plant Inventory Policy: It was agreed that we did not have the resources to conduct the kind of professional plant inventories contemplated in the policy; it should therefore be deleted.

Plant Sale Policy: The policy, which concerned an honorarium for the coordinator of the annual native plant sale, had been established when plant sales were handled very differently. It was agreed that the policy could be deleted.

Representation of GNPS: The policy was approved as written.

Workshop Policy: It was agreed that the arrangements for a given workshop would be determined by the Board on an ad hoc basis, and therefore the policy should be deleted.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Policies: The policies, recently approved by the Board, could stand as written. On the summary document, reference should be added to the Roles, Responsibilities and Membership Policy relating to the garden.

The Board approved the policy amendments as described above with a motion for each. A revised set of policies would be circulated.

At-Large Board Members: Margie said that anyone approached about being on the Board should be given copies of the two documents just discussed, as well as the full version of the

SCBG policies. In addition to Karen Valentine and David Philips, it was agreed that Dinah Demers could be approached.

Fundraising for the Garden Master Plan:

Fundraising Committee: Marty said that she wanted it to be clear that the SCBG Steering Committee had been set up as a policy-making body and would not be responsible for fundraising. What was needed was a specific fundraising committee. As a Board member she was willing to be on such a committee, but she really did not want to be alone in devising the fundraising strategy. Denise Smith said she would help with grant writing, but she would not be on the committee. Naava Koenigsberg, because of her connection to Heart of the Gila, would be working on raising money for the Butterfly Garden, but she would not be on a GNPS fundraising committee. Margie said that we would try to bring in fresh blood for the project. Marty asked that anybody interested should be told to contact her.

Appeal to Members: Margie said that the first step should be a letter sent to members this fall appealing for donations. The letter should mention that GNPS was providing matching funds for the first \$5,000. It would also be helpful if the letter could say that all of the Board members were donating – no fixed amount, just what each person felt they could give.

Holiday Party: Margie reported that the December Holiday Party will be held at the Silver City Women’s Club on Sunday, December 10th. The rental fee was \$200, plus a \$100 deposit, which had been paid. It was an attractive space. It should be noted that the Women’s Club did not allow alcohol on the premises.

Mimbres Harvest Festival: Margie said that, with many people being away or otherwise tied up, we might have to cancel our participation in the Mimbres Harvest Festival this year. Don said that he would check with the Education Committee and get back to the Board on it.

New Business:

Volunteering MailChimp: Margie said she had been collecting ideas about volunteer positions and would like to send out a MailChimp to members with a list. There was an urgent need, for instance, for volunteers to water in the garden.

Volunteer Social in the Garden October 15th: Margie said she would like to plan a brown bag lunch social in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden for volunteers at which GNPS would provide cookies and beverages.

Beginner’s Guides for Other Chapters: Don said that there was some interest from other chapters concerning our Beginner’s Guide series. He would like to know how the Board felt about sharing that information. It was agreed that we would be willing to share the content of the Beginner’s Guides in electronic form to any other chapter interested, for whatever use they could make of it, but that we should not spend money trying to adapt the format.

Motion: The Board agreed to share the GNPS Beginner's Guides in their current electronic format to other interested chapters.

Carter Fund Donation: Don recalled that last year GNPS had donated \$1,000 to the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund, which funded the grants awarded by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. He proposed that this year we should increase our donation to \$2,000. It was clarified that most of the donations to the Carter Fund were from individuals. Margie said that she would prefer to have a good idea of our overall financial picture, including the expenses we could expect in the coming year, before we decided on the amount of our contribution. The proposal was tabled.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.