



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

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

Called to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Donna Stevens, President; Cara Staab, Vice-President; Naava Koenigsberg, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Margie Gibson, Past President; Marty Eberhardt, Elroy Limmer, David Philips

Additions to the Agenda: David Philips requested an opportunity to give a report from the Education Committee: approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Board meeting of March 11, 2025, were approved.

Board Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Naava Koenigsberg gave her first quarterly report as Treasurer covering the period 1/1/25 to 3/31/25, representing the third quarter of the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Summary of Accounts

At the meeting, she circulated a report giving the account totals at the end of the quarter. Among other information, the report showed that at FFCU the GNPS checking account as of 4/1/2025 had a balance of \$3,413.32, the savings account had a balance of \$5.02 and the money market fund had a balance of \$501.32. At Edward Jones GNPS had a money market fund, AEAXX, with a balance of \$6,819.52 and a mutual fund, AIVSX, with a balance of \$63,829.58. Total funds in accounts under GNPS equaled \$74,568.76.

At FFCU the SCBG checking account had a balance of \$15,633.16, including a transfer of \$5,000 from the money market fund, and the money market fund had a balance of \$54,142.30, including the transfer of the proceeds of the Edward Jones CD that had matured on 3/26/2025 in anticipation of major upcoming expenses at the garden. At Edward Jones, SCBG still had a mutual fund, TTOXX, with a balance of \$30,000.06. The total for all SCBG accounts was \$99,775.52

Her written report also included a summary of income and expenditures by project. She said that she was tracking expenditures against the approved GNPS budget. For the Silva Creek

Botanical Garden, she was keeping track of income and expenditures dating back to July 1, 2023, when the capital campaign started. Board members expressed their approval of the format of quarterly reports.

Financial Management

Naava noted that the GNPS mutual fund (AIVSX) with Edward Jones was losing value owing to the current stock market upheaval and asked the Board how they would like to handle that account. Margie explained that the account was a legacy from years past and historically had done well, despite some stock market slumps; she suggested, and other board members agreed, that it would be best to leave the funds where they were for the time being.

QuickBooks

Naava said that she had found a new way of using Excel that she found would work better than QuickBooks for the organization's accounts. As a result, it would not be necessary to continue using QuickBooks, and the only expense would be the \$35 already paid for the first month. She had written a letter to the accountant who was going to help set up QuickBooks, explaining the situation.

Committee and other reports:

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Report: Prior to the meeting, Marty circulated the following Steering Committee report as of April 2025:

"The Waterworks will no longer be managed by Southwest New Mexico Act, but by the Town of Silver City, following the Waterworks opening for camping only this month. Jacqui Olea, the Community Development Manager [now the Assistant Town Manager], has been put in charge and would like to meet with us about consistency in design with the Waterworks and other town projects.

The wall around the tank is in progress. Education Committee members will meet with me and Diana Ingalls Leyba about the mural today (4/8/2025).

Steve Morgan will be installing the shade sails and moving the fence today and tomorrow for the main entrance. The Steering Committee is seeking approval at this meeting for his design for the signs that will go on the fence (see attached action item).

I am working on a contract with Laura Howell, graphic artist, to continue the work on interpretive signs begun by Joel Anderson. The President and Treasurer will receive the contract this week. We will not need to increase the budget to do this.

I will be facilitating a planning meeting on April 28 to brainstorm how to manage and direct increased visitation in the garden, due to its increasing profile. How do we encourage/manage more educational usage? How do we deal with increased requests for parties/events? How do we deal with increased maintenance needs? Donna, Margie, Naava, Elroy, Don, Susan

Thompson (member of the Garden Management Team) and I will put our heads together and come up with some ideas for the board to consider.”

Marty also reported that there had been two work parties doing spring cleanup in the garden. The shade sail at the main entrance should be up by tomorrow. She wanted to emphasize that the goal of the whole garden project was to create an outdoor classroom, an educational resource for the community. That was why she was holding a planning meeting: we needed to consider what we wanted to happen or not to happen there. The planning meeting would be held on April 28 from 1:30-4:30 pm at the meeting room of the town annex on Hudson Street. Perhaps David would like to attend also representing the Education Committee.

Naava said that Jacqui Olea, the Assistant Town Manager, was eager to work with us, although her desire to have similar color schemes for the signs in all Town properties might not work for us. Donna said she was happy to delegate the members of the Steering Committee to coordinate with the Assistant Town Manager. Naava also reported that the Garden Management Committee had \$3,000 in the budget that they wanted to spend now on Siberian Elm trimming and/or removal. Elroy said that he had met with Joseph Franklin Owens, the Town arborist, who was willing to do the work.

Education Committee Report: David reported that he, Marty and Dinah Demers had met with Diana Ingalls Leyba about the tiles that were to go on the wall around the tank. He said that the Education Committee was providing content but was not involved in the design. The Education Committee would also do some educational events with the young people who would be doing the work. Marty said that Diana planned to do the tile work with 6-12-year-olds, with some older interns, in a day-camp format. She also noted that we had to be sure to give recognition to the New Mexico Department of Outdoor Recreation on the wall, since it was funded by part of their grant.

Unfinished and General Business

Give Grandly Update: Marty reported that she had updated our page on the givegrandly.org website, which would go live to receive donations on April 19. She needed more volunteers for two-hour shifts at the table on May 3. It was agreed to send out a MailChimp asking for volunteers.

New Business

Approval of main entrance signs: Prior to the meeting, Marty circulated a document “Action Item–Main Entrance Sign Design” setting out some changes requested by the Steering Committee to the design and size of the two signs that would flank the main entrance, as well as a sketch of the leaf design for those signs. She said the Steering Committee would like to have the Board’s approval for the design.

Motion: The Board approved the leaf design for the signs at the main entrance of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

Board member recruitment: Donna asked, in light of the recent resignations, whether we wished to recruit more Board Members at Large. Margie pointed out that the President was empowered to appoint Board Members at Large to fill the remaining terms of those who had resigned, subject to approval by the Board. Marty suggested that, since Board Members at Large were to be elected this year in November, we might as well wait until then. It was discussed and agreed that we could look for candidates starting in September.

Bulletin volunteer recruitment: Donna reported that Betsy Kaide had said the April issue of the GNPS Bulletin was the last she would be editing. Margie explained that the job of the Bulletin editor was to remind all the contributors to submit their reports and then to put them all together using the template on MailChimp. A MailChimp should be sent out asking for volunteers. She also said that a gift for Betsy would be appropriate, in view of the years she had been doing the Bulletin, as well as two years handling memberships, and she volunteered to find a suitable gift.

Motion: The Board agreed to authorize up to \$100 for a gift for Betsy Kaide in appreciation of her years of service editing the GNPS Bulletin and handling membership.

GNPS emails: Naava said that it would be more secure to have the PayPal notices go to treasurer.gnps@gmail.com rather than the general gilanative@gmail.com email address. She also suggested that it might be a good idea to have separate email accounts for the different official functions of the organization.

Motion: The Board approved the practice of having notices coming from the PayPal account directed to the Treasurer's official email instead of the general email address.

Volunteers for Continental Divide Trail Days: Volunteers were also needed to host the GNPS table in Gough Park for Continental Divide Trail Days on Saturday, April 19. It was decided that one MailChimp would be sent out shortly calling for table minders for Give Grandly and CD Trail Days, while another MailChimp would be sent out later calling for volunteers for the long-term tasks of editing the Bulletin and being on the watering team for the garden.

A policy to reimburse field trip organizers for gas in scouting out field trips: Margie explained that in the past a least one GNPS field trip organizer had been paid something for gas used while scouting out good places for field trips. Often the organizers made multiple excursions before finding a good spot, and the cost mounted up. There was discussion whether the reimbursement should be based on mileage, but it was felt that keeping track of mileage would place an additional burden on the field trip organizer, so that a flat amount per field trip was better.

Motion: The Board approved a reimbursement of \$50 per field trip to the field trip organizer.

A policy to help pay for the chapter representative's expenses: Margie explained that we should not want anyone to hesitate to be our chapter representative to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico board because of a financial issue. The chapter representative was required to attend two NPSNM board meetings annually, usually out of town, which entailed travel and lodging. While lodging at the January board meeting was paid for by the state organization, there was no state reimbursement for lodging at the board meeting held in conjunction with the state conference or for travel to either meeting. Some chapters paid those costs. What she proposed was that GNPS should at least offer to pay for our chapter representative's lodging for one night at the conference hotel rate and to pay for travel to the two meetings, if the individual wished.

Motion: The Board agrees to offer to reimburse the Gila Chapter representative to the NPSNM board for the cost of lodging for one night, at the conference rate, for the state board meeting held in conjunction with the state conference and to reimburse mileage at our policy rate for travel to and from both annual state board meetings.

[The motion passed with seven yes votes and one abstention by the current chapter representative.]

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Spence
Secretary, Gila Native Plant Society

APPENDIX: DECISIONS TAKEN BY EXCHANGE OF EMAIL SINCE MARCH 11, 2025

Decision taken by exchange of email on March 17-29, 2025

Motion: The Board approved the budget submitted by the GNPS Education Committee for a Native flower/Native bee booth display for a total of \$500.

Explanation:

On behalf of the GNPS Education Committee, Don Graves requested \$500 to be made available for the items listed below to create a booth display for use in GNPS tabling events, local school visits and other community events.

- 4 Native bee photo prints on paper \$25 each
- Lamination for photos \$20
- 1 Native bee print on metal \$55
- 1 Flower display model 19.5"x19.5" \$95
- 2 Wooden, hinged insect display box \$20 each
- 2 Easels \$20 each
- 1 Magnifying glass 5X+ on stand \$25
- 2 Storage/transport totes 15"x8.5"x2.17" \$10 each
- 1 Pegboard 4x8 \$15