



Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 2:00-3:30 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, Carol Martin, David Phillips, Sheila Williams

Absent: Ceci McNicoll

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Board meeting of May 20, 2026, were approved.

Additions: Marty requested a discussion of a volunteer for set-up duties.

Unfinished and General Business

Plant Sale Update: Donna reported that Ceci had suffered from several bouts of bad health this spring. The status of planning for the native plant sale was unchanged, with three of the vendors she had contacted committed to participating: Ethical Desert, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance and Lone Mountain Natives.

Board members felt that Ceci might need some help in contacting vendors, possibly by phone. In addition, Priscilla Titus cultivated plants for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden and had suggested in the past that she could sell surplus plants on our behalf at the plant sale; the Board was in favor of doing that this year. It would also be appropriate to contact the Seed Library to see if they would like to have a table. Sheila volunteered to help and would coordinate with Ceci in contacting people. Betty said that she would send around the publicity information from last year. Margie offered to update the Save the Date artwork from last year.

Use of Give Grandly Funds for the Crevice Garden Workshop: The item was tabled until a more detailed budget was available.

New Officer Recruitment: Donna reminded the Board that in November GNPS officers were to be elected to serve in 2027-2028. She herself did not intend to run again for President, and Cara would not be seeking another term as Vice-President. A nominating committee was indicated, but so far no one had volunteered to be on it.

In the discussion that followed, it was emphasized that the candidate for President needed to be someone with a foundational belief in our mission, which implied that they were already a member. It was suggested that a survey to members of their interests and skills would be helpful, although it would be more useful generally for volunteers. David suggested that a blurb could be included in the Bulletin, emphasizing the duties involved, rather than the position. Margie stressed that we should not assume a “no” in advance – each board member should just reach out to someone and report what they said. Donna said that she would share the membership list.

Carter Conservation Award Nomination Process: Donna reported that since a MailChimp had been sent to the members soliciting their suggestions for the award recipient, there had been some response. Ann Hedlund had suggested a posthumous award to Richard Felger or an award to Russ Kleinman or Bill Norris. Susan Berry had also suggested Richard Felger. Margie had suggested Elroy Limmer, as had Ron Groves and Pam Bryant. Nancy Jones had suggested Patricia Hurley. Wendy Graves had suggested Patrice Mutchnick. Don Graves had suggested Bill Norris, while Bill Norris had suggested Russ Kleinman. Marty had mentioned the Gila Resources Information Project for an organization and Elroy Limmer as an individual. At the Board’s request, Donna said that she would compile the reasons given in one document and circulate it.

Margie proposed that, in addition to choosing the Carter Conservation Award recipient, the Board could establish an award to be given by the chapter to a person who had contributed greatly to our organization. In answer to questions, she explained that, in her view, since the Gila Chapter was the host this year, it was appropriate for it to make such an award. The amount of the award could be considered at a later meeting.

Motion: The Board decided to establish an award to be given by the Gila Chapter at the state conference this year to an individual who had contributed greatly to the chapter.

Board and Committee Reports

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Committee Report:

Finances:

Marty reported that the Town had agreed a \$7,500 per year service contract in support of garden operations. The modified Southline grant application submitted to the Gila Community Foundation had yielded \$1,000. Margie and Marty had sent a letter to the Petrie Foundation with the plan and the draft budget for the Grasslands Garden and were now waiting to hear whether they would invite us to apply for a grant. The site for the crevice garden workshop had been selected, and the budget was being developed. The contract had been signed for the creation of the metal house façade for the Front Yard Garden.

Family Day in the Garden:

Marty said that six booths with children's activities had been lined up for Family Day at the Garden on July 11. The Big Ditch Crickets and a children's music group would provide entertainment. Sadly, there would be no puppet show because of her sister's health problems. Heart of the Gila would be doing their "Butterfly Chasing" activity. Volunteers would be stationed at different areas of the garden to provide information.

At this point she was simply worried about getting children to come. She would like to publicize the event at places where children were going in the summer, like summer camps, the pool and the recreation center. Margie said that she could create a postcard, and Betty said that she could use it to negotiate an ad in the Silver City Daily Press. That publicity would be covered by the garden budget. Marty said she had arranged to have an interview on Candace Burke's Community Spotlight program on Gila/Mimbres Community Radio (KURU) and might be able to arrange a PSA. Betty said that KRWG would automatically do PSAs for items posted on their Community Calendar, and she would take care of posting there and on the Silver City Tourism Calendar and the Grant County Beat calendar.

More help was needed for the set-up on Family Day, starting at 8:15 am, and for handling refreshments. The reminder MailChimp could call for volunteers.

Docent classes:

Marty reported that the MailChimp calling for docent volunteers had gone out that morning, and the appeal would be repeated in a press release. She urged Board members to encourage anyone they knew who might be interested.

Conference Update: Carol reported that she had received a sponsorship donation from Morning Star. It was decided that Naava could send the usual donation thank-you form.

New Business

Cara's Update: Cara reported that for serious family reasons she would need to draw back from some of the responsibilities she had assumed, both for the conference and for the evening programs. She would need help finding a presenter for an October program and would be happy to shadow someone to show how to conduct the Zoom. In November Carolyn Koury from the Forest Service would finally be able to give her presentation on the Trout Fire emergency response effort.

Third Quarter Bulletin: Donna said that she wanted to check on what was to go into the upcoming Bulletin. In addition to the President's Report, she would write a paragraph calling for donations for the silent auction. Marty would provide the garden report. Margie would update the plant sale artwork from last year and provide that for the Bulletin. Betty would draft a blurb about conference registration and get Margie and Donna to proof it.

Other Business:

Set-Up for Tabling Events: Marty said that Jim Blurton, who had been handling the set-up for GNPS tabling events for many years, would like to pull back. We would need to find someone else, or several persons, preferably strong and with a truck, to take on the job.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Spence, Secretary
Gila Native Plant Society