



## **Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 2:00-3:30 pm**

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

**Called to order at 2:05 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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Board meeting of June 17, 2026, were approved.

**Additions:** State conference update

### **Unfinished and General Business**

**Plant Sale Update:** Prior to the meeting Sheila had circulated a report on vendor participation in the native plant sale. Suncatcher Desert Plant Nursery, Lone Mountain Natives, Ethical Desert and the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance had all responded that they would participate. There had been no response from Honeyhawk Homestead, Spadefoot Nursery or Gila Watershed Partnership. Borderlands, the Seed Library and Plants of the Southwest had responded that they would not be participating, although Plants of the Southwest might come next year.

Sheila reported that Priscilla Titus had many plants to sell, which she had listed for us and had suggested prices. Priscilla had also estimated her expenses and said that instead of a cash reimbursement she would like GNPS to buy her an appropriate amount of potting soil. Naava said to tell Priscilla to reach out to her on that. Margie suggested she could contact Priscilla to see if she wanted to be identified in the sale as selling her own plants or GNPS plants. Sheila, Naava and Carol also had a few plants to provide, which could be sold as GNPS plants.

There was a discussion about the overlap of some plant species that GNPS had for sale with those other vendors might have. It was suggested that Sheila might contact Trish Hurley at Lone Mountain Natives for advice about prices so that we were not undercutting the vendors.

In terms of publicity, Betty verified the Board's willingness to spend approximately the same amount on plant sale ads as last year and said that she would arrange for ads in the Desert Exposure, Silver City Daily Press, Deming Headlight and Mimbres Messenger. It was suggested that we would need two MailChimps – one as a "Save the Date" reminder and one calling for

volunteers for set-up, tabling and selling plants. Donna said that she would try to arrange for an interview on KURU about the plant sale.

Board members said they would be there to help on August 8. Sheila would sell plants. Marty, Betty and Donna would handle the literature table. Dave and Margie would help with set up and crowd control. Elroy would bring the large water jug. Betty offered to get the sandwiches for the vendors from Diane's Bakery, and Naava said she would set up an account with the bakery ahead of time. It was confirmed that we had sufficient tables and canopies. Naava said we should not forget cones for control.

With regard to book sales, Betty said that she would check the supply and get more from Rick Lass if necessary. She proposed selling *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* for \$30 instead of \$25 to differentiate it from the smaller *Common Southwestern Native Plants*, and the Board agreed. More of the latter were on order. Betty said she would type up a new price list for the books, which Margie would format, and Betty would then get it laminated at Copies on the Run.

**Use of Give Grandly Funds for the Crevice Garden Workshop:** At a previous meeting the Board had agreed in principle to pay for the materials for the crevice garden workshop at the state conference out of Give Grandly donations. Sheila circulated a detailed budget for the crevice garden totaling \$2,138 for items including gravel, rock, top soil and bobcat rental, with some uncertainty as to rock sizes. Naava suggested rounding up the figure to allow some margin.

**Motion: The Board approved the allocation of \$2,500 from 2026 Give Grandly donations to pay for crevice garden materials.**

Elroy reported that the buried water pipes near the crevice garden site had been located and were known to Steve Mudge, who would operate the bobcat. Sheila said that the timing of the preparatory work would be decided by the Garden Committee.

**New Officer Recruitment:** Donna said that she would send around the membership list. Board members should see if there were people on the list who could be approached to become candidates. The idea of a MailChimp to members with a description of the officers' functions was canvassed, but it was felt that it was best to recruit personally.

**Carter Conservation Award:** Donna said that she had not yet compiled the award suggestions received from members about the award recipient but would do so shortly and circulate them. If necessary, the Board could vote by email, or we could vote at the August Board meeting. It was agreed that Board members were free to send in more suggestions, but we did not need to send another MailChimp soliciting the ideas of the membership.

### **Board and Committee Reports**

**Silva Creek Botanical Garden Committee Report:**

### Family Day in the Garden:

Marty reported that Family Day in the Garden had been a good event. It had achieved the goal of sharing the garden with more people and a wider segment of our community. To achieve that, they had spread the word to churches and schools, had done outreach to the mining district and had used Facebook posts in addition to the usual publicity.

The attendance had easily reached 230. The groups organizing the activities tables had all responded positively. It had been great to have the music in the garden, too. She was considering the idea of having a similar event in October next year.

### Docent classes:

Marty reported that five people had responded affirmatively to attend the docent classes on three consecutive Saturdays, and three more were possible. She planned to try for a docent-led tour once or twice every month during the season. The docent classes would be repeated in the spring.

**Conference Update:** Cara reported that so far 110 people had registered for the conference, 88 for the Thursday Meet & Greet at the Murray Hotel, 91 for the Friday Reception at the Waterworks, and 116, including guests, for the Saturday Banquet.

Naava said that, since she would be away from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>, she would need the information as early as possible on the vendors we would be using for the conference. GNPS already had contracts with a few businesses, including Ace and Amazon. Carol said that she had meetings scheduled soon with the caterers and would procure the necessary information from them.

### New Business

**Ceci McNicoll's resignation:** Donna reported that Ceci had resigned from the Board effective July 4, 2026, for health reasons.

**Photo Policy:** Dave said that questions had arisen concerning the legality of using photos of people taken at a public event. Legal or otherwise, there was the sensitive issue of using photos of children. He had done some research and talked to Juno Ogle, a reporter for the Silver City Daily Press. As he understood it, it was legal to take photos of people at a public event without their specific permission, but the right to use images without permission depended on whether they were used in an editorial sense or a commercial sense. Use in an editorial sense meant that you were merely reporting on something that had happened. Use in a commercial sense meant that you were using the images to promote something - say, an upcoming event - which was how we often wished to use an image.

He thought that GNPS needed an event photo policy and a social media photo policy. He would consult David Becker on legalities and Margaret Menache with regard to her policy for the state newsletter. He would draft something and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Spence, Secretary  
Gila Native Plant Society