

Friends of the GTM NERR

Minutes of Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Members Present:

Bill Coleman, Peter Difatta, Carl Hampp, Barb Stark, Joe Hutnan,
Carol Travis, Pierre Pierce, Anita Pierce,

Staff Present:

Janet Zimmerman

Guests:

Agnes Danciger, Chris Rich, Craig O'Neal, Caroline Prescott

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm by Bill Coleman at the EEC

May Meeting Minutes Approval by Bill Coleman

Seconded by Peter and Passed

Presentation to Agnes Danciger by Bill Coleman

A plaque and 3 year pass to the NERR were presented to Agnes in appreciation for her contribution to the Friends of the GTMNERR. Agnes gave a short speech thanking the Board and directing those that follow her to stay the course.

Nominating Committee Report by Carl Hampp

The nominating Committee has received several inquiries about Board membership. At this meeting the Nominating Committee is presenting 3 candidates for consideration. Jonathan Katzen, Christen Rich, and Craig O'Neal. Their resumes have already been provided to all of the Board members. The board will vote on these three candidates at this meeting. The Nominating Committee recommends that all three candidates be approved. Question from floor – Is one of these candidates an accountant? Bill answers – We are currently speaking to two other candidates who have accounting backgrounds about Board membership. Nancy and Mary Ann. Carl says – I have attempted to contact Nancy by phone and have not heard back from her yet. I do not have any information about Mary Ann. Board discussion about who will contact Nancy and who will provide the Nominating Committee with Mary Ann's resume.

Nominating Committee cont.

Anyone present who is being considered for Board membership is asked to leave the room.

Discussion among Board members about the qualifications of the candidates.

The Board votes unanimously to add all three candidates to the Board. Jonathan Katzen, Christen Rich, and Craig O'Neal.

The attending candidates are invited to reenter the room and are told that they have been accepted to the Board of the Friends of the GTMNERR.

Discussion among Board members about Gail Hankinson's continued status as a Board member.

According to the bylaws Gail is no longer eligible to serve on the Board due to non attendance at Board meetings.

Teri will be given Gail's status and the contact information for the three new board members so she can update the Board of Directors list.

Discussion among board members about researching Gail's ability to contribute to the Friends of the GTMNERR as an advisor instead of as an active member of the Friends of the GTMNERR Board of Directors. Bill will contact Gail to get her wishes on the matter.

Discussion about Bonnie Goldsmith and Triss Padget and their status on the Board of Directors.

Bonnie has resigned from the Board and Triss is on a leave of absence due to her husband's illness.

Discussion about the attendance rules for Board of directors of the Friends of the GTMNERR in the bylaws and whether they are enforced.

Bill answers – the attendance rules have been always been enforced. There are provisions in the bylaws for excused absences.

July Social by Joe Hutnan

The Board members and NERR staff will meet and get to know each other in a social setting. The Friends of the GTMNERR will provide the refreshments.

The social will be held July 10 immediately following the July Board meeting.

July Social cont.

Janet – NERR staff has been given July 10 as the date for the social. NERR staff and Board members will receive invitations requesting an RSVP. The social will be confined to NERR staff and Board members only. No guests or spouses.

Membership Committee update by Barb stark

Barb – Frank, Teri, and I met after the June meeting to discuss the possibility of doing the Friends of the GTMNERR membership dues reminders monthly instead of annually.

Barb and Teri went over the computer program to ensure the information could be accessed easily on a monthly basis. It can be.

Frank, Barb, and Teri agree that monthly reminders instead of yearly appear easier. And the Membership Committee with Teri's help will pursue that avenue for sending reminders of dues to Friends of the GTMNERR members.

Barb – It appears to me that it is time to purge the database. There are 265 members in the database that have not paid dues in two years. However, we may want to contact some of these inactive members.

Bill – The Board will vote on a purge at a future meeting.

Barb – For those Board members who may not be aware, the yearly mass mailing for membership dues has always been outsourced in the past creating an expense for the Friends of the GTMNERR. We will do the mailings in house now.

Janet – The admissions desk has been asking people for their zip codes when they pay admission to the EEC.

Board discussion about using this information for future mailings.

Joe and Peter – On the subject of purging the database, it would not be a good idea to get rid of all those addresses.

Those 265 inactive members for each Board member need to be called to establish interest in continuing support of the Friends of the GTMNERR and its mission.

Barb will have the list ready for the July 10 meeting: 10 names and phone numbers from the list of 265 inactive members for each Board member and a phone script. Each Board member will call the 10 people on their list and using the phone script as a guide establish continued interest in

Membership Committee cont.

supporting the Friends of the GTMNERR and their mission. Teri will do the same with the people on the list not assigned to Board members.

Discussion about creating a newsletter for members of the Friends of the GTMNERR and who could write and distribute it.

It was suggested that Irene could write the newsletter with Chris' help.

Joe, Irene, Janet, Barb, and Chris will get together to discuss doing a quarterly newsletter for the members of the Friends of the GTMNERR.

Discussions about whether calling inactive members about renewing would violate those on don't call lists. It was decided that because they are members it does not violate a don't call order.

The Board was informed that for \$20 a spot they could have TV ads on Nature Channel, Discovery Channel, and Animal Planet.

More research is needed to find out how many spots are minimum for the \$20 each and how much it would cost to produce the ad.

NERR update by Janet Zimmerman

The Volunteers and staff send their thanks for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

How many Board members will be attending the Artist Reception on June 22? Harry Hellas will be the artist.

We will need greeters and bartenders for the event. Those participating need to arrive 30 minutes early.

Joe will introduce Harry because Bill is unable to attend.

NERR update cont.

National Estuaries Day is Sept. 29. Sat.

Sept. is also the annual members meeting and the new Board officers elections are coming up around then.

The 312 evaluation –In July NOAA comes down from Washington DC and conducts interviews with members of the community, partnering agencies, and NERR staff to establish that the facility is serving the public satisfactorily.

NERR update cont.

July 18 is the 312 evaluation public meeting at 6pm. Any positive input would be appreciated. If any of you would like to speak to NOAH outside the public meeting it can be arranged earlier in the day. If interested contact Janet.

Other Business

Bill – Is there any other business?
There was no additional business.

Bill- The meeting is adjourned.