

GPOA Meeting at the Emerald

Monday, 23 September, 2024, 5:30pm

Call to Order by VR at 5:30pm

Roll Call

Taylor Anderson (TA)
Renee Brochu (RB)
Julia Burke (JB)
Doug Cheek (DC)
Andy Early (AE)
Vickie Ryckman (VR)
Hoben Thomas (HT).

JB was absent and excused; otherwise, all members were present; AE left at 6:21pm.

VR conducted the meeting in JB's absence. TA joined the Board today.

1. Community Comments

Comments concerned the MailChimp distribution, and who could appropriately use it. TA spoke about the 1239 Pine Valley Fuery weed-littered unmaintained property which has been a continuing issue for many years. There appears no easy or obvious way to resolve the matter. Among suggestions: leaning on the New Bern City authorities.

2. Minutes Approved

The 11 September 2024 working meeting minutes were approved.

3. Treasure's Report

Both AE and DC reported; DC noted \$200 had been donated to defray the cost of the new Greenbrier Parkway fountain; other contributions were encouraged. An update was given on the status of the 2025 budget which it is expected will be ready for distribution in the days ahead. It will be up for consideration at the 18 November Annual Meeting. It was noted that certain recently negotiated multiyear contracts have significant yearly savings. Balances as of 30 August: Checking \$33,495; Savings \$30,378.

4. Communications

RB addressed her efforts to construct a new more easily accessed "friendlier" website. The new web page is available at greenbriernc.com while under construction. When the greenbriernc.org web page is no longer needed, it will be discontinued and both the .com and .org URLs will terminate at the new web page.

5. Vice President's Report

(i) VR addressed matters of political campaigning. (ii) GB mail is available to all residents of Greenbrier (unlike MailChimp which is members only). GB Mail is not the site to reach the GPOA Board. She noted that MailChimp contributors can be members of the Board, and standing committee chairs. (iii) A social event, Pig Pickin', will occur at the Emerald on 11 October. Tickets are on sale. (iv) The next public Board meeting is on 21 October at the Emerald. (v) The Annual Membership (Budget) Meeting is on 18 November, a date change because of an Emerald conflict.

6. Committee Reports

6a ACC George Kramer reported on their 12 September meeting. No Board action was taken.

6b Bylaws Mike Waring noted a new chair is needed. He issued an invitation to join the committee.

6c Communication Bill Kirsch handles MailChimp. Nothing to report.

6d Civic No report; members needed

6e Election No report; members needed

6f Finance Scott Speicher briefly addressed the matter of partitioning and clarifying different sources of incomes, e.g., gifts versus membership dues.

6g Membership No report

6h Maintenance No report, and no committee head; however, David Chew distributed a report co-authored with Sally Kiely on the Nature Park Committee's activities in the August to September timeframe. Among the items noted: Year to date volunteer hours 193.75. Flags were posted for the Labor Day weekend which remained through the 9/11 observations. The Monarch Butterfly Project: Do you wish to learn about registering and tagging Monarch butterflies? Janet Shikoluk is available for instruction.

6i Nominating John Brochu addressed matters concerning ads for the 2025 Directory and his preliminary actions.

7. Old Business

(i) The new Bylaws are effective today, 23 September.

(ii) The Board had received a request for a memorial bench with a plaque and tree. This matter was addressed in Board action at their 11 September closed working meeting. The resolution: "No object in nature park will carry a memorialization" was approved by the Board at that time.

There was considerable discussion about the matter, mostly centering on the fact that the Board addressed the issue in a closed working meeting. There was a sentiment, seemingly widely held, that there should have been an opportunity for members who might have disagreed with the decision, to have their voices heard. This presents a dilemma. Generally, under Robert's Rules, the audience (non Board members) are listeners only, unless comments are solicited by the Board, a position articulated by VR. There was push-back at this perspective, namely that the meeting need not be so structured. In the future, perhaps for possibly contentious issues, publication of the matter on MailChimp, with responses invited from the GPOA membership might inform the Board of community sentiment. There did appear to be general acceptance of the Board's reasoning set forth in ¶5g of the 11 September 2024 minutes.

8. New Business

Distributed by VR was a document titled: Resolution to Change Election Cycle. "Whereas the Bylaws adopted August 25, 2018 have been superseded by new Bylaws adopted on September 23, 2024, creating a change from the original Bylaws election cycle. Therefore be it resolved that all future regular elections to the Board of Directors shall take place in accordance with the new Bylaws. In order to accommodate this change, the terms of all current Board members shall be extended as needed to accommodate the seating of new Board members at the the January Board meeting." The resolution was moved, seconded, and passed.

9. Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting adjourn, at 6:43pm.

Hoben Thomas, Board Secretary
24,28 September 2024