



MINUTES — May 22th Grand Prairie Friends Board Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2023

Warbler Crossing, 17487 Bypass Rd, Charleston, IL

Submitted by Valerie Sivicek

Attendees: Ed Wilhite, Tom White, Collin Carlier, Valerie Sivicek, North Joffe-Nelson, Fred Delcomyn, Craig Milling; **Absent:** Pam Leiter, Dave Easter, Mark Shelden

Staff: Sarah Livesay (Executive Director), Jeff Peyton (Natural Areas Manager), Alissa Bell (Natural Areas and Operations Technician), Summer interns (Caleb Lane and Colin Houser)

Guests: Beverly Foote, William Weber, Tony and Mandy Willenborg

Quorum? Yes

Call to Order: 6:45 pm

CONSENT AGENDA

The reports of the President; Staff; GPF Properties Research Coordinator; Accreditation Committee; Bylaws Committee; Greenhouse Committee; Conservation Cemetery Committee; Professional Development Committee; Nomination Committee; Volunteer Committee; Stewardship Committee; Land Acquisition Committee; Blazing Star Society Committee; Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee; and Finance Committee, as well as the minutes of the last board meeting (04/24/23), were submitted separately as a consent agenda item. Collin moved to accept the reports as submitted. Tom seconded. MOTION APPROVED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Weber mentioned a poem posted by a friend on the GPF Facebook page.

BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

Ed reported the plant sale netted about \$26,000. Sales increased by about \$6000 from last year, and there were at least 80 new customers. An event at Riggs Beer Company will be organized to thank volunteers. Ed also commented the plant sale needs more space to support its growth.

OLD BUSINESS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fred moved to approve the April 2023 Financial Statements as presented. Craig seconded. MOTION APPROVED.
2. Fred moved to accept a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contract for reimbursement of land stewardship labor services on 74.8 acres at Warbler Landing Land and Water Reserve, not to exceed \$24,518 during period 2023-2027. Collin seconded. MOTION

APPROVED.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Scientific research at Warbler Ridge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS/MEETINGS

(Dates with no description are Board meetings.)

June 26

July 29 (Board Retreat and Board Meeting, 10 am – 4 pm @Warbler Crossing)

August 28

September 17 – BSS Garden Party, 4 pm @Easters' home in Homer

September 23 – 3 pm Fall Fete @Warbler Ridge

September 25

October 7 – 3 pm Fall Membership meeting @Champaign Library

October 23

November 5 Rattlesnake Master Run for the Prairie @Meadowbrook Park

November 27

December 18

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.
