



GALA Board of Directors meeting minutes

May 13, 2020 via Zoom Teleconference

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m.

Attending: Steve Silverberg, Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Debra Gaskill, Katrina Capasso, Meghan Cormier, Audrey Lee, Deb Marcou, Chuck Leach and Pat McKinney

Absent: Paige McGrath, Taubethia Haubold-McGee

Secretary's Report: Debra Gaskill presented the minutes from the March 17 meeting. Corrections regarding the Llama Promotion Committee fiber videos were noted and fixed. Andrea Parent-Tibbetts made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected; seconded by Audrey. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Katrina Capasso presented the financial statements, which had been emailed to the board. Income from the fiber festival was noted as not part of the original budget. New memberships were higher than last year and the tax return had been electronically filed. Chuck Leach had questions on budgetary differences from last year to this year. Katrina explained that an insurance payment of \$716 was also made in April and \$100 was paid for the Llama Promotion Committee. Audrey Lee made the motion to accept the reports as presented; Deb Gaskill seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports :

Medical Research Committee: Barb Baker reported that there are currently no camelid-based medical research projects in need of funding, according to Steve Silverberg. Steve suggested to Barb the possibility that GALA support the University of Texas at Austin llama nano-body research which could provide a cure or vaccine for Covid-19. Typically, GALA does not support human-based projects, according to Chuck Leach, and the bylaws do not prohibit that.

Membership Committee: Steve asked Katrina Capasso to follow up with Membership Chair Miranda Brown to approach former PLAA members about joining GALA. She said she would.

Conference Committee: Due to concerns over Covid-19, the 2020 Conference canceled and rescheduled for October 2021 but a weekend earlier, according to Conference Co- Chair Debra Gaskill. It was just too difficult

to maintain social distance and CDC requirements to have the conference in person. Most speakers have the 2021 date available and have been able to recommit to that date.

The conference photo contest will still be held and moved to an on-line format, according to Meghan Cormier, who is taking over from Bob Wolfe. She has contacted someone who is a photographer and teacher to judge. The People's Choice Award could be moved to the website, to the newsletter or an e-blast.

One item for consideration is to produce videos on fiber projects for members to keep engaged with GALA.

Llama Promotion Committee: Meghan said plans for National Llama Appreciation Day are moving forward for June, despite the pandemic. Many are moving to on-line or virtual events. The Committee will honor any requests for buttons or brochures. The Committee is still working on the hiking with llamas video. The Committee urges participation however possible for NLAD.

Board Member Elections: The terms for board members Paige McGrath, Tabbethia Haubold-McGee and Pat McKinney end Dec. 31, 2020. They have been asked to run again, according to Steve Silverberg. Jane Hamilton-Merri@ is working on the elections and has a list of people who might be willing to serve should someone not want to run again.

Required Annual Meeting—Steve Silverberg questioned delaying the annual board meeting due to pandemic, until it is safe to gather. Jane Hamilton Merri@ submitted a request that the annual board meeting be held virtually. Board member Meghan Cormier suggested that the meeting be live-streamed on YouTube or Facebook, although it could not be as interactive. Participation would be limited in those formats. Changing the bylaws to eliminate the annual meeting would not be possible, according to Steve Silverberg. A decision will be made at a later date.

Old Business:

The GALA survey/questionnaire has been tabled until we understand where the planet is going.

New Business:

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska has asked for public comments regarding a proposal to eliminate the pack llama user group as part of a proposed regulation package, which incorrectly states that llamas place a larger impact on the environment than other animals. The ANWR is citing incorrect scientific data regarding pathogens allegedly carried by llamas. A sample letter for comments was attached to the board and will also be put up on social media for the membership to respond. Comments are due by June 8. Pat McKinney had questions on sponsorships for the conference. Since the conference was cancelled, the efforts for sponsorships had not progressed. Pat suggested that the conference Committee start early in 2021 for higher success.

ADJOURNMENT: Debra Gaskill made a motion to adjourn at 8:45, seconded by Deb Marcou. Motion Carried.
Next Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15th at 8:00 pm