

December 2014 KGVB Board Meeting

Meeting Date: 12/11/2014

Place: Home of Bruce and Jo Ogletree at 712 N. Lucas

Time: 7:15 PM

Board members in attendance:

Bruce Ogletree – President

Dave Buhr – Vice President

Mendie Schmidt – Executive Director

Dave Orphey - Treasurer

Maria Pohlman – Youth Committee Chair

Monique Hester – Beautification Committee Chair

Lori Clark – Sustainability Committee Chair

Ray Ramon- Recycling Committee Chair

Rusty Walker – City Parks and Recreation Liason

Raj Rapaka - Marketing Committee Chair

Board members unable to attend:

Robyn Mckinney – Litter Committee Chair

Guests:

Susan Ramon (Ray's wife)

Jo Ogletree (Bruce's wife)

Jeff Clark (Lori's husband)

Chad Hester (Monique's husband)

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM, and Bruce asked those attending to call out their names. He then outlined the meeting agenda:

-Amend previous meetings minutes to read that there was a vote to authorize the Executive Director and President (Mendie Schmidt and Bruce Ogletree, respectively) to sign checks and otherwise disburse funds from the KGVB treasury. Bruce requested a motion from the floor, which was made by Maria Pohlman and seconded by Ray Ramon. The measure was passed by voice vote.

Bruce had asked Mendie to prepare a list of accomplishments of KGVB over the year 2014, which were as follows:

- Eagle Projects: 28
- Litter Cleanups: 18
- Plantings/Beautifications: 7
- # of Volunteers: 456
- Volunteer Hours: 1590
- Estimated Value: \$33,946.50
- Special Events:

--MLK Day of Service

--Don't Mess with Texas Trash Off

--EPIC Earth Day

--Bud Light Project

--Trash and Treasures cleanup

--Parade of Lights

--Grapevine Recycles Day

--Arbor Day

Bruce mentioned that some information was not available owing to a several month period without an Executive Director, and the resulting difficulty in obtaining information regarding total donations and other statistics. He went on to say that he was confident that Mendie would make an excellent ED, and expressed high hopes for KGVB in the coming year, a sentiment echoed by those attending.

Bruce then offered the board members an opportunity to state what event they had been involved with that they felt had the greatest positive impact on the community.

Monique Hester said that, although she was not directly involved in it, that she felt the improvements to the trails to the west of Katie's Woods Park (made possible by a grant from REI) were of tremendous benefit to the community, and urged those attending to check them out. Maria and others outlined some of those improvements, and improvements yet to come. She mentioned Peter's spearheading of the operation as key to the project's success.

Bruce mentioned that Mendie suggested that KGVB host a Volunteer Appreciation event, and expressed his support of that idea.

Monique mentioned that REI was very interested in continuing its partnership with and support of KGVB in 2015. Various members expressed their appreciation for REI's support in other events during the year.

Bruce said his involvement with the EPIC Earth Day was probably the event he was most proud of, citing the various ways the event benefitted the general public, the businesses that exhibited there, and how it helped to raise KGVB's visibility in the community.

Ray Ramon said he most enjoyed the Trash and Treasure event, relating that as he drove volunteers around he met people from far-flung communities who, even though they did not live here, appreciated Lake Grapevine and the surrounding community enough to come and help clean up the shoreline. He went on to mention the large amount of trash that was collected.

Dave Orphey was most thankful for the milestone of the million dollar's worth of volunteer hours, but was also very proud of his involvement in the renovation of the Grapevine Cemetery. He described a great deal of hard work in adverse weather, including 120 hours of his personal time, and a humorous aside about the delivery of several workers in the bucket of a front-end loader driven by Tim Hamilton.

Bruce took the opportunity to point out that Dave had played a major role in cleaning up the area around the convenience store at the corner of Mustang and Tanglewood, and the positive and lasting change that made in the neighborhood, both in terms of cleanliness and fostering community spirit. Dave mentioned that the results were surprising and gratifying to him.

Bruce then invited each member to share what they were most looking forward to in 2015.

Bruce brought attention to the fact that Lori Clark was taking over his previous committee chairmanship of the Sustainability Committee, citing her tremendous expertise in the area.

Lori said that she did indeed have plans, which included improvements to the website to make various analytical data available to the public, and continuance and expansion of the Sustain the Vine initiative expressed a great deal of excitement about a the Solarize Project, which would seek out citizens interested in installing solar panels at their homes, pooling their purchasing power to realize a discount. She mentioned that Plano citizens realized a 20% discount. She expressed her excitement to be a member of the KGVB board, something that she had been wanting to get involved with for some time.

Bruce spoke of his desire to revamp the KGVB website so as to make it a timely and relevant source of information and active input for the citizens and businesses of Grapevine and raise KGVB's visibility within the community.

Monique asked if Wordplay would still be managing the website, wondering if there was city staff that could manage that instead. Bruce mentioned that Mendie would be speaking about plans for website management in a few minutes. Monique went on to express her willingness to consider taking on the management of the website, citing her experience with writing and maintaining websites.

Maria Pohlman is still heading up "The Beach Club", her cadre of high school volunteers who go to clean up around the lake, and mentioned an upcoming outing. Jo Ogletree asked questions regarding her son's ability to earn service hours. Maria would like to expand the program.

Mary Jo Tellin, our former ED made an appearance and was greeted warmly by all.

Maria continued, saying she would like to have more meetings, get more volunteers, find someone to take over for her, and find ways to continue to serve.

Bruce asked all board chairs to prepare a mission statement for the year 2015 to be presented at the next meeting, giving them latitude as to how much detail they wish to go into. He said there would be no reports from the committee chairs or review of financials at this meeting, and went on to ask if anyone had any matters they felt needed to be discussed. Monique asked if she would be continuing to chair the Beautification Committee and Bruce told her that is where he would like her to serve at this time to which Monique readily agreed, explaining that there was a new volunteer interested in chairing the Education Committee.

Lori asked if there was any central file sharing arrangement for KGVB, and Bruce said he believed it would be a worthwhile endeavor, citing concerns about overall user-friendliness. Monique expressed her willingness to help set up such a system.

Bruce then surrendered the floor to Mendie Schmidt, who expressed her appreciation for the welcome she has received from the board, as well as our support and patience while she gets organized in her new position as ED. She went on to outline some specific plans for KGVB, the first of which would be a "Board Retreat", preferably on some Saturday in January, the purpose of which would be to orient the new board members, and do some strategic planning to decide as a group how we wish to grow as an organization. She asked for members to get with her regarding scheduling for that.

Mendie said that she wanted to develop a "close-knit" feeling between KGVB and the community, through newsletters and the events like the clean-up day that Dave Orphey had been a key part of in 2014. She expressed a desire to open lines of communication and establish relationships with teachers and faculty with an eye toward being a resource for them in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities.

Mendie asked if there were other matters she might need to address, and Bruce mentioned discussions about the changing nature of our relationship with Wordplay Texas and i5 Webworks. Bruce interrupted to explain to the board that Mendie was about to describe a change in those agreements, after which Bruce would seek a motion from the board and vote on those changes.

Mendie said that she met with Tracy Souther of Wordplay Texas to clarify the current agreement, with an eye toward Mendie taking on the bulk of the social media responsibilities. Tracy's recommendations were that she (Tracy) would continue to handle the newsletter responsibilities, essentially cutting down KGVB's monthly payments to her to \$150 (as opposed to the \$300 we are currently paying) and hiring her on an hourly basis as-needed basis for other tasks, which Mendie agreed was a better way to serve our overall needs while saving money on services she was qualified to take on, such as the social networking tasks that were part of what Wordplay had done in the past.

Bruce encapsulated that proposal in a request for a motion from the board. Mendie added the current contracts come to an end on December 31st of this year.

Lori asked what the monthly expenses had been in the past, and Mendie said that they were typically \$300, but there were some months where that went up to \$600.

Bruce repeated the request for a motion per Mendie's proposal. Lori made that motion, which was seconded by Monique, and passed on a voice vote.

At that point, Bruce officially adjourned the meeting, but Mendie remembered an announcement regarding a program run by Lisa Grove of the Crosstimber Forestry Council to do a Citizen Forester class, which she regarded as an excellent opportunity to get expert training in the field. The program would be free for Grapevine citizens, but Mendie was confident the 30 available slots would fill up quickly, so she urged anyone interested to contact her.

Bruce restated Monique's expression of interest in handling the management of maintenance and content for the KGVB web site.

No other comments were offered, so the meeting was again adjourned.