

GPOA Board Meeting
The Emerald, 18 December, 2023, 5:30pm

1. Call to order 5:29pm by JB

2. Board Attendance

Julia Burke (JB) present
Andy Early (AE) present
Sarah Sawyer (SS) present
Doug Cheek (DC) present
Ashley Smith (AS) absent, excused
Hoben Thomas (HT) present
Vickie Ryckman (VR) present

3. Opening Comments by President JB

JB thanked the Emerald staff for arranging matters for the meeting; JB announced there was one agenda item: The 2024 Greenbrier GPOA budget which had been twice distributed because of errors in the first distribution. JB handed the meeting over to Treasurer AE who ran most of the rest of the meeting.

4. AE budget presentation and audience discussion

AE first introduced himself, gave a brief overview of some budget issues, acknowledged problems of the first budget distribution, and recognized folks for their helpful comments.

The meeting quickly evolved into an interactive largely orderly discussion among different audience participants and Board members, with Board contributions coming mostly from AE. The following attempts to capture the overall thrust of matters.

Lloyd Moore noted the need to have the current 2023 budget which was unattached to the second 2024 proposed budget. Mary Schaefer (MS) cogently observed the first 2024 budget could serve this purpose because it included the 2023 budget. MS importantly noted, twice during the meeting, that the proposed budget has always been changed from what is initially proposed based on realized income not evident until well after the New Year. MS noted the Board has often shifted funds from one line to another based on current conditions and requests. So her message was *relax*. The Board is authorized to adjust matters, and has always done so. However, Carter Ann Rollins (CAR) pointed to some features of the revised budget's line items that she believed needed adjustment or removal, for example the \$300 Alligator Weed Control line item which is now recognized as not needed. CAR wanted another updated revision of the budget prepared, but there appeared little support for that request.

It was suggested by several people that the 2024 budget should be presented along with a reconciled 2023 budget after the first of the year. The issue of requiring an audit of the GPOA's finances was floated. CAR noted that an audit would cost thousands. Geoffrey Smith (GS) observed that anyone that wishes can go through the assembled collection of bills along with their correspondingly stapled payment records, thus rendering an audit unnecessary. GS also responding to concerns about the GPOA website, noted the history of the GPOA's website and its continuing, but lessening problems.

Mary Griffin asked why there has been a drop in GPOA membership, a matter of concern shared by many. In fact, there is a lack of empirical data to address the matter, precluding definitive answers. But CAR suggested some decline was attributable to pandemic effects. DC noted that there had been about a 9% decline in membership from 2022 to 2023, and that there is a need to increase members, so that finances improve. CAR strongly opposed funding social events using GPOA funds arguing such events need to be self-supporting. VR commented that social events build community, implying that such could lead to greater GPOA membership and consequently an increase in revenue.

6:12pm JB sensing matters were heating up, declared a recess.

6:20pm JB called the meeting back to order.

Tami Babb, head of the social committee, took the floor at the front of the gathering and argued why social events and thus social expenditures funded by the GPOA were important and cited several reasons for doing so, intellectual, emotional, among others. Bob Sullivan proposed issuing the Directory every other year, thus saving funds. There was also a call for a more fine-grained detail of what constitutes different budgetary line items. The meeting could have continued, but JB gavelled the meeting to a close at 6:41pm. No motions were proposed during the meeting and the Board took no formal actions.

5. Adjournment at 6:41pm

Hoben Thomas

Board Secretary, 24 December 2023