

**Minutes: NPSOT Pines and Prairies Chapter
2026 Board Planning Session**

Thursday, Jan 8, 2026 6pm – 8pm Zoom

Attendance: Amy Birdwell, Alicia Mein Johnson, Hugh and Diane Wedgeworth, Kathryn Marshall, Jay Gowan, Anne Blount, Mimi Posey

Amy presented the following on Officer Elections – must present Roster minimum of 30 days prior to 2nd meeting of year

a. Required in Bylaws

1. Officers & 3 At Large – staggered 2 yr terms
2. No more than 3 consecutive terms served
3. Board meeting frequency – minimum of 1 meeting per quarter
4. Quorum – 50%

b. Current Terms – Amy had to take some liberty determining current “terms” as many of us started off the regular election cycle. Essentially most of us came in mid cycle. Ideally, half the board terms out every other year. Pres / VP and Sec / Treas should be alternating terms.

Position	General Duties	Current	Term	Elect Feb 2026
President	Presiding	Amy Birdwell	2025 - 2027	
Vice Pres	Chapter Meetings	(Alica Mein-Johnson)	2026 - 2028	Yes
Secretary	Minutes, Roster, Bylaws	Mimi Posey	2026 - 2028	Yes
Treasurer	Accounts, Report to State	Anne Vautrain	2025 - 2027	
At Large	NLCP	Jay Gowen	2026 – 2028	Yes
At Large		Hugh Wentworth	2025 - 2027	
At Large		(vacant)	2026 - 2028	Yes

Hugh Wedgeworth made a motion to accept Amy’s chart. Alicia seconded.

Amy proposed Amanda Beaver for Vice President. No one has yet expressed interest in the open at large position.

2026 Budget Draft Budget:

- Current draft includes large increase for Outreach
- Plant sale projections are conservative

- Still have a significant overage that as a nonprofit we should not carry
- a. Spending ideas discussed:
- i. Outreach committee has additional budget requests. Ideas were discussed – plants? Soil and pots? Seeds? No vote was taken.
 - ii. Member sponsorships? – students / new home owners? – capped fund \$1000 – no decision was made.
 - iii. The budgets are all for committees except donations to other organizations. We need a clear process. Committee sends receipts to Amy for approval, and Anne pays.
 - iv. NLCP engagement – class scholarships – capped fund. **There was agreement to apply for expense reimbursement from State NPSOT.**
 - v. Support Texas Botanical Gardens – SABOT, Mercer, or BRIT? There was discussion but no vote was taken. **There was agreement to end traditional \$500 to San Antonio Botanic Gardens and increase donation to Mercer.** Jay suggested Cooks Branch Conservatory (Mitchell Foundation). Amy wants to increase donations to \$2,000. Anne suggested \$3,000.
 - vi. One-time purchase of signs and t-shirts and sell them at the plant sale. **We agreed to order 40 signs from the State.** No decision on t-shirts.

5 Year Anniversary Celebration – chapter ratified Jan 2021. Suggestions discussed:

- i. Recognition for Gail and Founding Board
- ii. Memorial for John Ferguson, founding mentor (Gail sent a letter to his family)
- iii. Holiday seed gifts were not sent; we will send instead with a card in the spring as a celebration.
- iv. Party? Monthly reminder of history?

Chapter Initiatives:

Are we meeting our mission?

“The purpose of the Pines and Prairies Chapter shall be to promote the conservation, research, and utilization of the native plants and plant habitats of Texas, through education, outreach, and example.”

Discussion – we are “moving towards” the mission.....

Chapter Activity Report Requirement (CAR): Amy and Mimi will work on this quarterly.

Current Programs:

1. NLCP – committee doing a great job - 2 or 3 classes / yr
2. Outreach (tabling) – committee doing a great job
3. Plant Sale (Spring / Fall) – successful – next sale Mar 28, 2026
4. Demonstration Gardens: Gail is keeping up Lake Creek, but Alicia notes this program is not working due to lack of physical support for new gardens. We should lean-in and support the existing garden.
5. Native Seed Library – Montgomery Central Library
 - a. This initiative needs a different champion (currently Amy Birdwell). The seeds are being taken.
6. Annual gift to members
 - a. Historically seed pkt (not yet executed for 2025). **We agreed to send something to members in the spring of 2026 as a celebration of the 5th anniversary.**

Proposed New or Revitalized initiatives

7. Jay suggested funding rewilding initiatives in neighborhoods or HOAs. \$1,000 set aside for community grants. Can be a committee.
8. Community Grant Program (currently dormant). Mimi offered to research other chapter’s grant programs. This can be part of the rewilding initiative.
9. Fieldtrips
 - a. BLC – Magnolia Preserve (Carson invitation)
 - b. Watson Rare Plants (2hr) (Colton invitation)

2026 Calendar – Alicia offers to initiate

5 Year Plan – no discussion

Meeting was Adjourned around 8:00 pm

