

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING

Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist

12 April 2011

Members present:

Jamie Daily, Richard Fleming, Bill Woller, Linda Gindler, Ling Yin Liu, Lissa Martinez, Evelyn Penrod, David Reichert, Liz Robbins, Wendy Thornton, Ron Tullius, Jessica Leslie, Joe Novy, Bryan Davis, Peggy York, Nancy Brown

The meeting was called to order by Liz Robbins at 5:15

March minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Daily

Jamie reported the balance as \$6,162.42. Also, rather than paying a \$10.00 per month fee to access the statement online, John Wolcott will continue receiving the statement via mail and forward a copy to Jamie. Liz gave Jamie a check for \$500.00 received from Daily Service Foundation of the Watermill Company in Colorado. This is the second year we have received a donation from this organization. The treasurer's report stands as read.

Unfinished Business:

- Bryan Davis discussed the statewide policy for background checks for all volunteers. This includes those who work with children, drive or handle monies. He passed around the form that is used by AgriLife. The advisors recommend that this form be used; however, they will accept other agencies' forms. The form follows the guidelines of the Youth Protective Services. The cost is \$10 for 3 years. Liability waivers, which are meant to protect AgriLife and partners were also discussed. Liz stated that we need to move forward on this and suggested that this be addressed at the retreat. Linda Gindler mentioned that a member of the current class, Anita Anderson, is an attorney who is willing to look over legal documents for us and Liz suggested that she be at the retreat to help with this.
- Retreat – The retreat date is July 9, 2011 at Linda Mitchell's house. The time was set for 9:30 a.m. for mingling and 10:00 a.m. for the meeting. Board members, sponsors, and committee members are invited.
- Bingo – Liz reported that Bingo tax forms were signed and mailed by Margaret Baldwin, who was paid \$400 for tax preparation. There is still \$150 in the Bingo account that needs to be closed out by Anton, whose name is on the account.
- Reporting hours – Wilt will be turning over his responsibilities to two new people after 6 ½ years. Ling will continue with her part. Liz introduced Howard Homan, one of the two new committee members. The other member is Nancy Thoss.

New Business

- Liz discussed the need to increase student tuition to \$150.00 from \$125.00, effective for the fall class. Ron moved that the tuition be increased and the motion carried. Scholarships will be retained.
- PHP – Wendy discussed the request by the Phil Hardberger Park (PHP) Conservancy to have a third Saturday hike in their name and coordinated by AAMN. Wendy will be the representative for AAMN with PHP Conservancy. A meeting will be held with Gail Gallegos and John Linkhart, from AAMN class 2, who wants to be involved with this. Jamie moved that PHP/Conservancy activities be added as approved activities for MN and after discussion, the motion carried.
- May 10th meeting – It was decided that the May meeting time be allocated to preparing the booth that Lissa Martinez is coordinating for the upcoming Urban Wildlife Mgmt. Conference. Lissa requested that members send her photos of urban wildlife in their areas.
- Meeting time – Linda moved and the motion carried to change the meeting time to 5:30, effective in June.
- Honorary Master Naturalist – Bylaws state that this must take place at an annual meeting and all members present must vote with a 2/3 majority needed to approve the honorary master naturalist. Tabled for future discussion.
- Name tag modification – Peggy York presented a modified name tag in which holes were drilled in order to attach service pins. Peggy has volunteered to provide this service (minus cost of materials) to members. Follow-up on pricing of materials needed.

Current Standing Committee and Advisors Report

State Advisors – Judit and Bryan

Nothing to report

State Representative – Ron Tullius

Nothing to report

Media and Technology – David Reichert

Website usage doubled that of January but length of visit is still very short. The March newsletter came out on time. David will be gone the end of this month and will need items by the morning of the 25th in order to get newsletter out on time. David stated that some of the verbiage from the state office needs to be removed to make the homepage more attractive.

Hospitality – Nancy Brown

Nancy requested that members planning to attend the party give her their money and stated that attendance numbers are down. Members can come at 3pm to help set up. Also, food will not be provided at the May work meeting. Wendy has the invoice (\$200) for the guards for the meeting, who want to be paid in cash. Jamie will write a check to Wendy for cash and she will give the money to the guards.

Chapter Programs – Jessica Leslie

Jessica reported that some presenters have changed and the August meeting will be on caving and activities at Friesenhahn Cave; she is still waiting for a confirmation on September's meeting.

Membership /Awards – John Wolcott

In John's absence Ron stated he has pins and will help distribute them at the meeting.

Outreach – Lissa Martinez

Lissa gave Barbara agendas for April and May community outreach and reported on recent activities: Liz attended Fresh Air Friday, April 1st, where 200 visited our booth, and Nancy Phillips and Pam Yarnold attended Family Day with the 'Creative Camouflage' display . Lissa requested photos of large animals that use camouflage for the display. Lissa also reported that 3 people from community outreach attended Viva Botanica. Other upcoming activities: April 21st SAC – Earth Day, 22nd Fort Sam soldiers and AAMN project at John James Park; In May – 6^{th,7th,8th} Wildfest , 7th Sorlarfest with AFP, 21st thru 25th Urban Wildlife Mgmt Conf, 21st 2nd Grand Opening-PHP. No commitments after May.

Training – Pam Ball

Absent – no report

Activities – Pam Ball

Absent - No report

Historian – Nancy Phillips

Absent – No report

Special Committee Reports**Reporting hours assistance – Roy Yarnold**

Absent – No report

SEP-HCP – Susan Oualline

Absent – no report

Alamo Forest Partnership – Lissa Martinez

No report

Hummer House – Arless Lenz

Absent - Liz will try again to contact Arless and stated that at least 20 people must sign up for the trip to take place.

SARA – Ron Tullius

Ron reported on two activities for which AAMN are committed: Mission Reach Hikes, the 3rd Saturday of each month and, starting in June, taken over by AAMN entirely; and 4 Rewind Field trips in May (5th, 13th, 16th, 18th). Ron stated that 7 MN led public wildflower hikes at Jackson Nature Park along Cibolo Creek near Stockdale which were attended by 50 people. Ron also sent out information to the membership regarding training for those who want to lead wildflower hikes at Mission Reach. Ron discussed the relationship between SARA and AAMN in which SARA is welcome to ask for AAMN help and we will oblige whenever possible.

KHI-MLAC – Dwight Henderson

Absent – no report

Sales – Pam Ball

Absent – no report

Liz mentioned that MN were invited to Poteet to do a plant/bird survey for a national trail. Plant/bird experts attended this. Lissa requested information from members regarding their activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Barbara Harder, Secretary

Liz Robbins, President