

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING

Alamo Area Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist

14 June 2011

Members present:

Nancy Brown, Wendy Thornton, Jamie Daily, Nancy Phillips, Barbara Harder, Nancy Thoss, Ling Yin Liu, Judit Green, Linda Gindler, Richard Heilbrun, John Prentice, Anton Hajek, David Reichert, Joe Novy, Jessica Leslie, Ron Tullius, Pam Ball, Liz Robbins, Anita Anderson, Sharon Kilmer, Billie Murrell, Evelyn Penrod, Linda Mitchell, Richard Fleming

The meeting was called to order by Liz Robbins at 6:20

Sonny Arnold thanked those present for the meeting with TPWD auditor, Chris Scherr, and himself to discuss the tracking of volunteer service hours.

April minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Jamie Daily

Jamie reported a deposit of \$5,626.00; checks in the amount of \$ 4,570.52 clearing; VISA card bill in the amount of \$388.58; outstanding check in the amount of \$51.16; leaving a balance of \$3,808.26. Treasurer's report stands as read.

Unfinished Business:

- 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. Directions to Linda's house will be forthcoming. Liz will work on the agenda for the retreat and emails can be sent to her with suggestions for topics to be included.
- Bingo – Anton will look into balance remaining in the bingo account.
- Reporting Hours Committee – A-H Nancy Thoss, I-M Howard Howman, N-Z Ling Liu
Liz thanked the committee for their help.

New Business

- PHP – Wendy reported that the Phil Hardberger Park (PHP) Conservancy wishes to have an educational program on the fourth Saturday of the month (changed from third) sponsored in part by AAMN. A meeting was held and a rough draft was drawn up regarding topics, etc.; another meeting is scheduled for next month. Wendy reported that the Conservancy really wants AAMN to coordinate this and that in the future, permanent space may be provided for AAMN by the conservancy. The early focus of the educational programs/walks will be the 'specialness' of PHP.

Members' Sign-up Directory

Tabled until the retreat.

Report on Urban Wildlife Conference

Nancy Phillips stated that the conference was a lot of fun and provided the opportunity to speak with many people who had never heard about the Master Naturalist program. Judit reported that there were 250 attendees representing 22 states and 9 countries. She was impressed with the programs and with how smoothly it all went and Richard also reported that he received many compliments regarding the programs. Judit also stated that the power point presentations will be available online sometime in the future.

Liz said that our chapter founder, Debbie Reed, flew in to attend the conference.

Hospitality Committee – Pot Luck preparations for Board retreat

It will be a free-form pot-luck and the main dish will be rotisserie chicken. Members are asked to let Nancy know what they will bring. Liz will send out an email regarding this.

Current Standing Committee and Advisors Report

State Advisors – Judit Green, Richard Heilbrun and Bryan Davis

Bryan reported that there was a good turnout for the make-up training class with Dr. Barron Rector.

State Representative – Ron Tullius

Nothing to report.

Media and Technology – David Reichert

David reported that web usage went down, probably due to the training class ending and that, generally, things are going smoothly.

Hospitality – Nancy Brown

Nothing to report.

Chapter Programs – Jessica Leslie

Jessica stated that she is waiting to hear from PHP about September's program.

Membership /Awards – John Wolcott

Absent - no report

Community Outreach – Lissa Martinez

Nancy Phillips reported that Lissa has many activities scheduled. She also showed 3 photos of animal camouflage that will be displayed at the Therapeutic Family Life event , June 25.

Training – Pam Ball

Pam has brochures for the upcoming class that need to be placed. She is also looking for technical assistance to help with the assessment of speakers who present to the training classes. She will speak with David Reichert about this.

Activities – Pam Ball

Pam offered to enter the codes that will be developed to track hours in a uniform fashion for auditing purposes.

Historian – Nancy Phillips

Nancy needs photos.

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

Absent – no report

SEP-HCP – Susan Oualline

Absent – no report

Alamo Forest Partnership – Kathleen Blankenship and Lissa Martinez

Absent-no report

SABG/SARA – Ron Tullius

Ron reported that at the SABG, Master Naturalists are helping with four summer camps for Junior Naturalists and Junior Gardeners. We are also planning the Texas Native Trail (TNT) hikes in the fall and ongoing TNT maintenance every Tuesday, as well as White-winged Dove bird banding. Ron also reported that at SARA, the third Saturday public walks at Mission Reach are continuing; he has received a request for help in November and next spring with rock formation hikes, wildflower hikes, bird hikes, as well as other activities. He will put those announcements in the newsletter at the appropriate time. Also, on June 25th, there will be the Grand Opening of Phase 1 and 2 of the Mission Reach project and volunteers are needed to help man stations along the river to answer questions and provide information about features of the project. We will be paired with SARA personnel and be provided shade and a script.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Approved

Barbara Harder, Secretary

Liz Robbins, President