

Alamo Area Master Naturalist
Board of Directors Meeting

March 8, 2011

Minutes recorded by Ron Tullius, substituting for Barbara Harder, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.
A quorum was determined.

The February minutes were approved.

The February treasurer's report was approved.

Treasurer Jaime Daily reported that AAMN expenditures exceed revenues. She stated further that this is a trend she has observed over the last three years.

President Liz Robbins passed around a letter from Kathy Ward, acknowledging the AAMN chapter's donation to the Bill Ward fund.

Unfinished Business

Linda Gindler reported that MNs are, in fact, covered by liability insurance for approved projects with other organizations and agencies

Linda spoke about updating the AAMN member roster and related the suggestion by TMN coordinator Michelle Haggerty that specific guidelines be established.

Linda reported that a liability release should be sent to AAMN members for their signature.

Linda spoke about background checks on AAMN members. These checks are valid for three years only, when a subsequent background check must be made.

There was discussion about the background check fee of \$10.00 and who should be responsible for this payment.

President Liz Robbins appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to investigate the matter further.

Members of the committee are: Linda Gindler, John Wolcott, Ling Liu, Wilt Shaw, Roy Yarnold and David Reichert.

Margaret Baldwin with Garcia Enterprises will finish the AAMN 2010 tax return for bingo at a cost of \$400.

The amount of money remaining in the bingo fund is unknown.

New Business

Joseph Novy, class representative for Class 28, currently in training, was introduced by Ron Tullius, class representative mentor.

Board members and committee chairs will attend the Class 28 class session on March 10th to speak to class members about duties and opportunities.

Two AAMN members are currently responsible for maintaining records of member volunteer service and advanced training hours. Because the membership is increasing, a third person is being sought to divide the alphabet of member names more equitably.

Current Standing Committees

State Representative – Ron Tullius reported that a 45th TMN chapter is currently being organized. This chapter will cover deep East Texas.

Marketing and Tech Committee – David Reichert reported that some website items have been rearranged and that a tab and blog for Class 28 have been placed on the website. He asked about interest in blogs for other purposes.

The Marketing and Tech Committee is organizing a session for Class 28 at their March 10 meeting. The session will include website information, recruiting for committees and partner projects, and additional content for the website.

Hospitality Committee- Nancy Brown reported that the spring social will be held on the first Friday in May, May 6. The unit cost per plate is \$10.00. Members will provide snacks and desserts.

Chapter Programs Committee – Ron Tullius reported that all programs are confirmed through July. The Program Committee is finalizing topics for August, September, and November.

Membership Committee – John Wolcott reported that most of the members of Class 28 are signed on to Google Docs.

Two AAMN members have already earned their 2011 recertification pin: Wendy Thornton and J.W. Pieper.

A few members are having trouble submitting hours to Wilt and Ling. Their problems are being addressed.

Community Outreach – Liz Robbins reported that the March 5 outreach at Mission San Jose was successful; attendance at the event was excellent, and the city distributed 400 trees.

Lissa Martinez will head the outreach effort at SAWS spring bloom.

At the Land Heritage Institute event AAMN will not have a table; members will assist in a variety of ways.

Training Committee and Activities – Pam Ball reported that Class 28 is officially underway with 35 students.

Training manuals for the fall, 2011 class have already been ordered.

Historian – Nancy Phillips spoke to Class 28 at their March 3 meeting about reports and pictures of AAMN member activities.

Current Special Committee Reports and Ad Hoc Committee Chairs

SEP-HCP - Susan Oualline spoke about the four scenarios for the Bexar County Plan, with two plans to be written. She reported that developers are not participating, and there is low or no public funding. The final plan must be written by the end of March and submitted to the county.

Hummer House – Liz Robbins and Nancy Brown reported that 15 people have signed up for the trip. Specific travel plans will be formulated later.

SARA and SABot – Ron Tullius reported on current projects and activities including (San Antonio River Authority) REWIND, Jackson Nature Park wildflower hikes, and Mission Reach guided tours for the public.

At the San Antonio Botanical Garden, projects include the Tuesday morning Texas Native Trails maintenance project, the Texas Native Trails contests, and the garden guide training, which will start on April 25.

Sales – Pam Ball reported that Class 28 members and other AAMN members continue to purchase t-shirts, decals, and lanyards .

Additional New Business

Liz Robbins stated that the July retreat for the board of directors will be held on either July 9 or July 16, pending a survey of board members. The meeting site is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.