



Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2016 Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Laura Biddle, Amanda Booth, Amanda Chau, Carol Henrichs, Mary Dabney Wilson, Donell Frank, Bruce Neville, Betty Vermeire

Bruce Neville brought the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

I. Old Business

A. Bruce got pictures from Jim Anding about destruction of grasses near the butterfly garden and chimney swift tower in Lick Creek Park. Jim's question is do we replant it, give up on it, fence it, or something else? Nothing will keep the kids out or animals urinating on it. It continues to happen even though it is blocked off. Olivia suggested a natural fence made of cedar would look good. Bruce asked about authorizing the expense and asking if Jim would like to build it. It's not a very large area; maybe a couple hundred feet. Olivia said we could pay for mulch around it and that might help.

B. Olivia asked if the BRTC was going to be demolished. Bruce said that has been reprieved due to expense of moving what's in the building. But the land around it will continue to be sold.

II. New Business

A. Deb Wilson – The most pressing upcoming event for the Host Committee is the December holiday party. **Please discuss possible locations and dates for this annual event.** The Unitarian Universalist Church where the party has been booked for the past 2 years is being sold to TDOT. It is uncertain when the move will take place but at this time the church will need to vacate 30 days after signing the contract. There are many variables to this event but I thought an alternative/back-up location might be the safest route. The rental of the church is embarrassingly reasonable and I can put in a reservation request just in case it is available...but need a back up if it is not.

Bruce said the Christmas Bird Count is the 17. We need a date and location. There is also Jake's in Wellborn. He said Dusty has indicated there is some funding for renting; we have just never taken advantage of it. Olivia can check with the Wellborn Community Center because they sometimes offer a lower price for non-profits. We will look at December 9, 10, or 11. Donell said she will check with her work location. Will look at afternoon and night times to see about night driving from Wellborn.

Bruce said all directors need to be re-appointed each year. But officers serve for two-year terms; so no elections needed. We will need to approve the budget.

- B.** Amanda Chau asked about the financial review committee (Financial Examination Committee) meeting and maybe increasing the cost of dues.
- C.** Donell and butterflies of the Brazos - She said Gabbard Park is a good location. The exec board said she would have help. The Master Gardeners may be able to help with a drawing and plan. Donell would like for the iNaturalist app to be used to update when butterflies are found in Brazos County.
- D.** Amanda Chau asked if people can get stream team volunteer hours if they have not received official training? Betty said only those who have been trained can receive volunteer hours, as well as approved helpers. *Betty also clarified that volunteering and hosting with the training class can receive volunteer hours.

Bruce adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.