

Minutes to Board and General Meeting, Oct. 9, 2014.

Members Present Were: Sarah Laughlin, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce and Mike Conner, Cheryl Lewis, and Betty Vermeire. Elrey Ash and Rick Laughlin were also present.

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm. Sarah gave a review of upcoming volunteer opportunities that was added to by attending members. These are listed chronologically below:

- Saturday, Oct. 18, Hazardous Waste Collection - probably could still use volunteers
- Sunday, Oct. 26, 2014, Fall Festival and Pumpkinpaloosa - Millican Reserve from 10-4 pm. Sarah is looking for a lead to organize and man a booth. Many materials are ready for use in the shed, so the lead would not necessarily have to come up with materials. There will be a pumpkin catapult!
- Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014, Project Feeder Watch - begins and runs through April 2015. Refer to website as some information indicates November 13 to April 8 (<http://feederwatch.org/>).
- Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014, absolute deadline for Nomination Committee to notify general membership of their recommendations for the 2015 Board so that the slate can be added to by general members and then voted on at the Dec. 5, 2015, meeting (during the Holiday Social). This is the 15 day required notice. During discussion, it was noted that as current President, Sarah should name two ad hoc members to the Nomination Committee (which will automatically also contain the Past President) as soon as possible so that they can begin the deliberation and search process. If possible the recommendations could be announced at the Nov. 13 meeting (one week prior to deadline). Betty noted that the current Vice President has traditionally been a member of the ad hoc nominating committee.
- Friday, Dec. 5, 2015, Holiday Party - Our reservation has been confirmed at the UUCV for Friday, Dec. 5, in the evening. Olivia A. suggested that some of us might want to meet in November to organize the party and suggested that we might raise funds by making/providing table centerpieces that would be raffled to take-home. Joyce C. reminded the Board that decorations had been made by Barbara Pritchard for the cancelled 2013 party and that those were still in the shed and could be brought out. Jim Balthrop said that he would pass around a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.
- Spring, 2015, Jay Pritchard Trail in Park next to Museum of Natural History - Rick Laughlin has talked to Dr. Deborah Cowman about signage. It has been suggested that an Eagle Scout troop work on the signage with our participation. The dedication ceremony is not anticipated until Spring 2015. In the meantime, Sarah reported that dead trees have been removed from the trail. Amanda Chau suggested that our chapter do more clean up prior to ceremony when it gets cooler, perhaps in November. Sarah L. will call City of Bryan about mulching.

Joyce reminded the Board of an October AT opportunity:

- Sunday, Oct. 19, Geological Historical Society Family Field Trip at Whiskey Bridge, Bryan, from 12-3 pm at Hwy 21 and Brazos River.

Other Business:

State Meeting Slideshow - Betty V. asked whether anyone had sent State Meeting organizers pictures of our chapter. Mike C. said that he had and that Carol Henrichs had worked with him to get labels attached. Betty asked whether any memorial pictures of Jay P. had been sent. Mike did not know that these had been asked for and would look into sending what he could find. Betty suggested looking at the State webpage for last year's slideshow to see how they were done.

Approval of Partners – Joyce C. asked whether the Brazos Valley Wildlife and Nature Photography Group and Friends of Lick Creek Park had been officially made partners with the chapter. While members felt that this had already been done, Joyce made a motion to accept the BV photography group and Mike seconded it. There were no dissensions. (Joyce failed to add the FOLCP in the vote, thinking that this had already been voted upon.

This needs to be researched in past minutes.) Upon the vote, it was suggested that there be a link to the group on our webpage.

T-shirts – Betty V. reminded the Board that it was time to order the trainees' t-shirts and that the general membership could piggyback on their order if there was enough time. She is asking Molly Harris to send t-shirt options to her and will send to Sarah who will email the general membership about getting in orders. CC Creations needs 1 month to 6 weeks of lead time. We are already at that point.

Volunteer Hours – Betty voiced concern that the chapter was forgetting the mission of the TMN program. The recent addition of allowing volunteer credit hours for bringing food to socials, allowing trainees to get credit for bringing food to share during their classes, and giving credit for providing items for door prize drawings are examples of this. She looked at the websites of some other chapters to see how they define the guidelines for volunteer service projects. If anything, the guidelines are better-stated than those in the State-provided Chapter Management Guidelines. She has not yet found a chapter listing food as an allowable project, though Board member duties qualify. However, she noted that our sister chapter El Camino Real only gives volunteer credit for bringing food if the member makes it him/herself. After discussion the topic was left open for Board members to ponder.

Raising Dues – Amanda asked whether we were going to raise our dues. There was some confusion as to whether we had voted that it be automatically done in 2014 to start in 2015 or whether it had only been discussed. It was mentioned that we might need to go back to past minutes to clarify. Sarah L. made a motion to adjourn and Amanda C. seconded it. The meeting was adjourned by general acclamation at approximately 6:40 p.m..

Final General Meeting Minutes -

Betty V. showed the award film "From Billions to None" about the demise of the Passenger Pigeon and its implications on this earth. After a snack break, a short general meeting was held. Added to the announcements made during the Board Meeting (see above), Betty V. reminded the general membership that we have the College Station Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December, 14, 2014, and there is plenty of opportunity to get a full day of volunteer time. There is also a Gibbons Creek Christmas Bird Count TBA- usually the last couple of days of the year.

A drawing was held and three of our members won – nature books and a t-shirt.

The meeting was then adjourned.