Texas Master Naturalist

El Camino Real Chapter

Board Meeting - January 2, 2013

Call to Order:  The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm by President Katherine Bedrich

Attendance:  Don Travis, Jeanette Patschke, John Pruett, Joyce Dalley, Sandra Dworaczyk, Debbi Harris, Cindy Bolch, Dorothy Mayer, Phyllis Shuffield, Katherine Bedrich, and Ann Collins.

The meeting was called to discuss a grant from the City of Rockdale to assist in funding advertising for the Milam County Nature Festival.  Co chairs, John and Joyce presented the board with information to clarify the grant.  The Hotel Tax form was passed around and a copy was kept for the records.  The Application form for the grant was also passed around and a copy was kept for the records.

John stated that for the 2012 Festival $3,000.00 was raised to fund the Festival with $1,000.00 given by the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce.

Joyce stated that Hotel tax funds are no longer disbursed by the Chamber but are now awarded as grants by the City of Rockdale.  Their aim is to "put heads in beds."  Do we need to put on our evaluation forms the question asking "Did you stay overnight in a hotel?"  We would need Friday night activities such as a movie or a Night Hike.

John brought up the issue of insurance for the Festival.  In 2012 the insurance was covered by the City of Rockdale but would not be covered in 2013.  The Chapter would need to purchase insurance for the duration of the Festival.  The cost would probably by in the range of $700.00 to $1000.00.

We would need to do a mailing for donations in August as all sources for funding would come from donated funds.

Don suggested that the forms for demographics should be at all gates in Fair Park as many people did not fill them out last year.

John went over the application form for the grant.  We would need a budget for advertising from Don.  John was concerned with Sections 6, 9, and 19.  The application form would need to be presented to the Rockdale City Council by January 7 or within 45 days of the event.

The Festival Chairs would need to look into the possibilities of a movie, a night hike, and / or a speaker for Friday.

Katherine said we need to check on the insurance needed for the application.

John asked if we wanted the Festival to grow or remain a small venue for educating the public in Milam County.

Sandra made a motion that we have a Friday night event and apply for the grant.

Debbi seconded the motion.

The motion was discussed and voted on.  The motion passed.

Joyce suggested that with the grant monies we might want to purchase a banner that could be used from year to year.

Cindy B. reported that the Nature Festival funds amounted to $1029.00.  In the general fund we have $3620.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm by a motion from Phyllis that was seconded by Dorothy.

Debbi reported that she would be applying for a grant for $400.00 from an association called Bring Back the Monarch to Texas.  Funds would be used at the Festival and continue at the Milano Junction Memorial Garden located between the old bank building and the Post Office in Milano, Texas.  Debbi is looking into purchasing Milk Weed plants that would be attractive to butterflies.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Collins, Secretary