

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Board Meeting Agenda

September 6, 2022 11:30 A.M.

All Saints Episcopal Church meeting room

Attendees: Linda Jo Conn, Mike Conner, Carolyn Henderson Catherine Johnson, Sue Ann Kendall, Donna Lewis, Liz Lewis, Kim Summers, Don Travis (Zoom)

- I. President: Carolyn welcomed the members.
 - A. Reminder: bring your own lunch to Board meetings.

- II. Request from member Victoria Everett to host a table at a special monthly program at the Rockdale Public Library. Will require snacks and plates, napkins etc., along with some volunteers to help her. She wants to sign up for January.
 - a. Sue Ann moved to approve the program and Liz seconded. The motion passed.

- III. New student hours for initial certification – one may be delayed for health reasons.
 - a. Members suggested that blogging would be an easy way to earn hours to certify.
 - b. Another new member needs more hours, and we are encouraging him to be sure to log all hours volunteering at meetings.

- IV. Recertification numbers – see attachments (Lisa says they look good).
 - a. Only a few members need more hours, and these members should easily be able to complete their volunteer time by the end of the year.

- V. Donna would like to update the trifold used at presentations – pick date for a few volunteers to help her.
 - a. Donna needs photos of our activities, since they were last updated seven years ago.
 - b. People with digital images can email them to Liz and she will print them out.
 - c. People with photographs can mail them or give them to Donna.
 - d. Time to work on the trifold was not set.

- VI. Christmas party will cost \$100.00 for use of Milam Community Theater building.
 - a. Liz reported that a meal of two meats and three sides from Thorndale Meat Market would be \$20-22 per person.
 - b. Members can bring family members and friends if they pay for their meals.
 - c. Members are also encouraged to bring desserts to share and any wine they would like to drink or contribute.
 - d. Catherine Johnson will help out with beverages and any serving/eating materials that the Thorndale Meat Market does not provide.
 - e. Members will be encouraged to decorate tables.
 - f. There will be the traditional White Elephant gift exchange, where anyone who brings a gift gets to participate.

- g. We determined that if the food price is \$25, we will pay the building fee and for other supplies from the extra, and maybe have a little leftover to replenish our bank account.
 - h. Sue Ann moved that we charge \$25 per person for the holiday meal. Carolyn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- VII. Chapter advisor award submissions for annual meeting?
- a. We will not submit an advisor award nomination this year.
- VIII. Is our term a 2 –year term?
- a. Yes, officers are elected for two years.
 - b. There are no term limits.
- IX. Recommendations for special awards at end of year party? Are there pins for special recognitions?
- a. We have some hummingbird pins that can be given for special recognition.
 - b. We also have some dragonfly friendship pins to give to non-members who have been very helpful to us. At least one nominee for this recognition was brought up.
 - c. Please think of anyone you think deserves special recognition and let Carolyn know.
- X. Officers and directors’ reports, recommendations
- a. Vice President: Liz Lewis made her report in the holiday party discussion.
 - b. Secretary: Sue Ann Kendall asks for more blog posts.
 - c. Treasurer: Mike Conner reports that the treasury is down to \$3683, which is the lowest he’s seen it.
 - i. If our January class fills out like we expect, that should bring in some funds.
 - ii. We will also be selling some native plants during Nature Days in November.
 - iii. There was a discussion about asking people for additional donations when they pay their dues, which are currently \$20. After further discussion, we realized those dues are very low. Mike Conner moved that we raise the annual dues to \$30 per year and Liz Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Dues for 2023 will be \$30.
 - d. Hospitality: Catherine reports that she is investigating eco-friendly options for food service. She is checking for the best deals and the most appropriate options and will report back. We will need to use some funds for the purchase of these items.
 - e. Communications: Don Travis has come up with a plan to keep officers’ personal information off the public part of our website. He will remove contact information for everyone but Carolyn Henderson and will add the number of the AgriLife Extension office, with permission from Micah Holcombe. Both of these contacts agree to take calls for us.
 - f. State Representative: Linda Jo informed us of an iNaturalist/TMN meeting to be held October 7-9 in Florence. She will provide more details in our weekly email and at the Chapter Meeting on Thursday.

- XI. Old Business
- a. We need to vote to remove Phyllis Shuffield as a secondary signer for our checking account and add Carolyn Henderson, as requested by Pat Foster. Sue Ann moved that Carolyn replace Phyllis as a signatory on the Chapter checking account. Mike Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- XII. New Business
- a. Mike Conner inquired about the status of moving our meetings to the new County Annex building, because of concerns about the difficulty people have hearing in the current location, though it is ideal otherwise.
 - i. Board members pointed out that the new facilities are still not really ready to be used.
 - ii. There is no storage for our things (the church has let us have a room where we have a cabinet).
 - iii. The places we could meet will not hold the current number of members, and we predict growth.
 - iv. We will address this again once some changes come to pass.
 - b. Catherine Johnson requested that we hold another vote about whether to continue with potlucks at Chapter Meetings or go back to bring your own meal. The suggestion was to bring it up at the January meeting.
 - c. Linda Jo spoke about a potential collaboration project with the Rancharia Grande chapter o the El Camino Real de los Tejas Historic Trail Association. It will be called "Walk the Rancharia Grande." The project is to create a limited public-access trail from near the Conners' ranch and the Baumann Village Site, near Sugarloaf Mountain.
 - i. They have written up a proposal for volunteer hours and sent it to Pamela Neeley, our Volunteer Training coordinator.
 - ii. There will be multiple events and opportunities.
 - iii. Chapter members who are members of both organizations will share more with the entire Chapter as things become more clear.
- XIII. Adjourn 12:50; Sue Ann moved to adjourn, and Liz seconded.
1.5 hours of VT Board/Committee Work.

Submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Secretary