

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 13, 2017

MINUTES

[With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the meeting to order.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom. The President and the Secretary were present. The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as corrected.

REPORTS (Officers, Advisors, Standing Committees)

Stan Drezek, State Representative, thanked the Board for their timely and thoughtful review of their position's duties. The COH review is now complete and will shortly be sent for Board review. The TMN Endowment Fund's 25K goal for 2016 is about halfway achieved; donations are being accepted at www.txamfoundation.com/give.aspx.

2018 will be TMN 20th anniversary year; our Historian/Archivist will be the chapter contact for providing information to TMN.

The TMN 18th annual meeting will be in Corpus Christi, October 20-22, 2017. See TMN for information; submission due date for talk proposals is June 1st.

TMN was named a "Bright Idea in American Government" by Harvard University's Center for Democratic Government and Innovation.

The March 14th General Meeting will feature Johnnie Smith with a presentation on the *Texas Waters Specialist* designation.

Keeley Porter, Historian and Archivist, reported that the Alamo Area Chapter will be recognized at the 20th anniversary of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.

Camille Gong, Hospitality Director, reported that the new training class will hold its first session on March 2.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Director, stated that of the 44 new class trainees, 3 are from the ACORN program; orientation for the new training class will be held on February 23rd.

REPORTS (ad hoc Committees and Chapter Liaisons)

Lissa Martinez, liaison to ACORN, stated that reporting ACORN volunteer hours for NEISD members is confusing. Discussion ensued regarding paid teacher responsibilities and duties versus volunteer hours.

Tom Brotheman, liaison to Alamo Forest Partnership, reported that 350 fruit trees were given away in just 2.5 hours at the previous tree-give-away.

George Ozuna, liaison to Medina River Natural Area, reported that MRNA is the only city park with chemical toilets; also, MRNA is seeking guides and leaders for educational tours. There are no recreational sport fields at MRNA.

Drake White, liaison to Phil Hardberger Park, reported that Rain-to-Drain has been canceled. The ribbon-cutting event for the Butterfly Learning Center will be a brief ceremony held on March 25 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Assistance is needed in finding donors for drinks and tacos; anyone with contacts should talk to Drake.

MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORTS

Approved as corrected and reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Introduction of Todd Beasley, new Director of Programs, San Antonio Botanical Garden. Mr. Beasley spoke about his educational background in environmental science, his doctorate in curriculum and instruction, and his teaching experience. He stated that the SABG seeks to raise its status in promoting education in the local community; also, the Garden seeks to partner with Master Naturalists and other groups.
- The Alamo Area Chapter now has 206 members who have paid their 2017 dues.
- Freya McGregor recently made a presentation in Melbourne, Australia about the Texas Master Naturalist Program; efforts are being made to establish a similar program in Australia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- the Chapter Budget for 2017 was discussed, including expenses for the chapter's anniversary celebration event, event ticket prices, committee budget adjustments. An updated chapter budget will be proposed at the March meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Demonstration Garden Update by Evelyn. See Attachment.

NEW BUSINESS

- Emily Hawthorn provided an update on the effort to establish a Texas Master Naturalist license plate. A motion by Jeanette Geiman that the Alamo Area Chapter donate \$200 to the statewide GoFundMe effort to reach the goal of \$8,000 was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Ron Tullius, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

Attachment:

Wildscape Demonstration Garden Update