

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 10, 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 Tuesday, January 10, 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, outlined the requirements for the new TPWD Texas Waters Specialist designation, the fact that both MNs and members of the public can be certified, and the potential for our Chapter and our regional water agencies. After discussion Martha Cray asked Stan to chair an ad hoc committee with Michelle Garza, Lissa Martinez and Penelope Boyer to advise the Board on how to proceed."

State Representative Report:

- 1) 24 of the 46 MN chapters are having a Spring course.
- 2) MNs who might have donated to the TMN endowment fund effort were thanked.
- 3) Sections in the TMN newly revised Chapter Management and Operations Protocols that might affect us were pointed out.
- 4) The Board was advised that they would soon need to review their duties as listed in the COH for accuracy and completeness

Pam Ball, Activities Director, reported that the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD), in collaboration with their local partners, is looking to assemble a canoeing group focused on serving urban youth and encouraging outdoor recreation and fostering environmental stewardship. The program is described as follows:

Youth Canoeing Program

As an Urban Waters Federal Partnership designated location focused on connecting underserved communities to their local waterways, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD), in collaboration with their local partners, looks to assemble a canoeing group focused on serving urban youth and encouraging outdoor recreation and fostering environmental stewardship. Projected program activities would consist of fishing, water quality testing, orienteering, nature hiking, and cultural history lessons, lead by local partner environmental educators. Local educators have recommend Boerne City Lake Park, Mitchell Lake, Calaveraz Lake, Brauning Lake, and Woodlawn Lake to fit 24 ft canoes comfortably. We believe this program would prove most successful during the summer months, when targeted youth are away from school for a prolonged period of time and are in need of educational activities, supervision, and safe spaces.

SAMHD/Healthy Neighborhoods has recently begun to pursue methods to engage residents they serve in environmental education and justice, in hopes of fostering community led conservation efforts. Partnering with local experts would introduce successful tools and methods

that would complement our already existing efforts, as well as the efforts of our partners in watershed management, water quality, and environmental education.

Also, she is rewriting the 2017 Activity Submission Request form.

Penelope Boyer, Director of Programs, announced the general meeting AT program 2017:

February's program will be by the Texas Invaders. The March program is being reserved for a presentation on Texas Waters Day and the Texas Waters Specialist Certification Program by Johnnie Smith from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

A Texas Commission on the Arts grant with a January 17 deadline is being prepared for programs during April through August to be scheduled in conjunction with a Second Saturday Speaker Series at Land Heritage Institute. Boyer requested a letter of support from AAMN and permission to include the \$50 budgeted speaker stipend AAMN provides as a partial match for the project. The five month program series will be titled "Naturalist Practices: Health, Healing, Haciendo y Yermo" and will invite artists who work with nature and wilderness health practitioners to present both at the AAMN meetings and at Second Saturdays at Land Heritage Institute (in north and south sectors of the city). Boyer presented a potential list of speakers. Programs for September through November remain to be determined.

Camille Gong, Hospitality Director, reminded Board members of their responsibility to bring food to the Board meetings; she passed around a sign-up sheet for future meetings.

Nancy Thoss, Membership Director, reminded the Board that all members should pay their annual chapter membership dues as soon as possible.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Director, announced that the spring training class applications will go online on January 12.

REPORTS (ad hoc Committees and Chapter Liaisons)

Lissa Martinez, liaison to ACORN, reported on the ACORN Project (see attachment).

Tom Brotherman, liaison to Alamo Forest Partnership, reported that the next tree-give-away will be held on the last Saturday in January; 2,000+ trees will be available.

Donald Ewers, National Park Service and SA River Authority liaison, reported:

Kayla Gasker is no longer at SARA. Matthew Drifill will be our contact person at SARA for the foreseeable future.

The Mission Reach tree planting event scheduled for Saturday, January 14 has been canceled due to the potential for heavy rain that day. The next tree planting is scheduled for Saturday, February 11 with a registration deadline to participate of Feb 9. Registration is through the Watershed Wise Warrior link on the SARA website.

The grand re-opening of Elmendorf Lake Park is scheduled for Saturday, January 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. In addition to major improvements to recreational facilities and security, there has also been major wildlife habitat restoration. Elmendorf Lake supports a diverse bird population here in Bexar County, second only to Mitchell Lake. Elmendorf Lake Park is next to the OLLU campus, and the University is building a new Environmental Science building next to the park. This will be the site of numerous Project ACORN activities in the near future.

Drake White, liaison to Phil Hardberger Park, reported that Saturday is the astronomy program called Stargazing; the Butterfly Learning Center garden is now essentially dormant; she is currently training people for the ACORN tours; PHP 4th Saturday Walks in 2017 begin this month.

Keeley Porter, ad hoc committee chair for the Chapter 20th Anniversary Celebration, expressed a need for more planning committee volunteers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Treasurer Nancy Thoss has prepared a draft chapter budget for 2017 and distributed it to Board members. Committee directors should review it and submit any changes/additions to her as soon as possible.
- President Martha Cray introduced the officers, directors and liaisons for 2017.
- The February meeting of the Board of Directors will meet on MONDAY, February 13 in order to avoid a conflict with Valentine's Day the following day.
- President Martha Cray encouraged all officers, directors, liaisons and state advisors to become familiar with the three documents that guide the conduct of the Board and chapter members.
- Member Bill Woller (Class #1) offered to provide training and equipment to perpetuate the teaching of windmill operation, corn shelling, animal skinning and other activities of daily life in early Texas to the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Evelyn Penrod reported on the status of the chapter-sponsored Wildscape Demonstration Garden. It appears that the property will soon be sold. A plant rescue at the site will be held following final approval of the sale.
- Vice President Aubrey George reported that the State Director's office has made no further requests regarding the Annual Chapter Report.
- Matt Carley suggested the possibility of the chapter funding a paid participant registration to the annual state meeting each fall; the money for such is a line item in the 2017 draft budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Martha Cray reported a vacancy on the Board following the resignation of Matt Carley as Immediate Past President.
- President Cray nominated former president Liz Robbins to fill the vacancy. The Board voted to approve the appointment.
- SARA representative Michelle Garza spoke to the Board about the possibility of a liaison from the Alamo Area Chapter to serve with a group seeking to develop a local Texas Waters Specialist program; President Cray appointed an ad hoc committee to investigate the program. Stan Drezek will serve as chairman of the committee; members include Lissa Martinez, Penelope Boyer, and Michelle Garza.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Ron Tullius, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

Attachment:
ACORN Project report