

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 9, 2016

MINUTES

[With a quorum present, President Matt Carley called the meeting to order.]

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 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)

Judit Green, TPWD, State Advisor to AAMN, passed along questions from Richard Heilbrun (TPWD, Wildlife Diversity Program, Conservation Outreach), asking if AAMN Board members and general members have been trained in the Volunteer Management System. [Nancy Thoss answered in the affirmative.] Judit reminded the Board that "double-dipping" -- reporting the same volunteer hours to two different agencies or entities, is prohibited.

Judit reported, too, that I-Naturalist workshops are available on-line and that landowner workshops and native landscape design classes will soon be offered.

Liz Robbins, Immediate Past President, is seeking one volunteer to serve on the *ad hoc* Nominating Committee, of which she is chairperson.

Tom Brotheman, Director of Programs announced that the AT presentation at the general membership meeting following the Board meeting would be a presentation by Gregg Eckhardt on "The History of San Pedro Springs."

Jeanette Geiman, Director of Outreach, reported that an Outreach event in January led to two class members in the upcoming chapter training class; that Outreach would be held at 2nd Saturday in PHP, as well as March 4,5 at the San Antonio Zoo as part of the SARA Monarch Fest. Jeanette is seeking 2-3 member volunteers to serve on the Outreach Committee.

Keeley Porter, Historian and Archivist, is working to organize a "Presidents' Roundtable" for the AT program in either March or April. She made a presentation on behalf of Bill Woller to President Matt Carley of a *president's gavel*. Bill created the gavel, made of Black Locust wood with a suitable engraving, to commemorate twenty years of AAMN activities. The gavel will be passed along from one president to the next.

Martha Cray, Director of Hospitality, brought refreshments for the evening. She passed around a sign-up sheet for refreshments at future meetings by members of the Board.

Evelyn Penrod, Director of Media and Technology, announced changes to the chapter website to streamline the menu (pull-downs) to facilitate access to website information.

Liz Robbins, New Class Committee Director, announced that forty trainees have been selected for AAMN training class #38, four of whom are NISD grant recipients for the ACORN Project. A motion was made by Mike Tayloe to allow the inclusion into the class of two additional NISD grant recipients. The motion was approved by show of hands.

REPORTS (ad hoc Committees and Chapter Liaisons)

Lissa Martinez, chapter liaison to ACORN, requested that members collect liter-size plastic bottles for use in the ACORN Project.

Tom Brotherman, chapter liaison to the Alamo Forest Partnership, announced that one thousand two hundred and fifty (1,250) trees were provided to local citizens at a recent tree give-away activity.

Mike Startzell, chapter liaison to the Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas, announced science fairs in February and April and requested volunteers to serve on judging panels; he is also seeking volunteers to serve as special award judges for the Chapter's certificate and monetary award. Mike announced that grant money for the final five miles of trail construction has been received.

Jeanette Geiman announced that she is pursuing Certified Professional Educator credits for teachers who go through the Texas Master Naturalist Training Class.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Martha Cray, upon recommendation by the President, was elected Director of Hospitality by the Board.

Stan Drezek, chair of the ad hoc Committee for Revision of the Chapter Operating Handbook, reported that changes are being suggested to reflect the actual duties of officers and Board members; all directors and officers have reviewed their individual duties; the revision approval process will take place over the next three months, following the prescribed procedure for revising the COH.

NEW BUSINESS

President Matt Carley urged members to pay their dues, as the deadline for payment has passed and the March 1 late deadline approaches.

Chuck Saxer, representing the Phil Hardberger Park Conservancy, presented to the Board a resolution seeking placement of a bond issue to support use of city funds for the "land bridge" at Phil Hardberger Park on the ballot at the upcoming municipal election. Discussion ensued on the issue of a Prohibition against Advocacy in the chapter bylaws. On a motion by Liz Robbins, and approved by voice vote, the matter was referred to the President and the State Chapter Advisors for further consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Ron Tullius, Secretary

Matt Carley, President