

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 14, 2017

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS & NEW CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE

	OFFICERS		Sam Womble	✓	Camille Gong		CLASS 40 OBSERVERS
✓	Martha Cray		Jessica Alderson	✓	Evelyn Penrod	✓	Karen Stevenson
✓	Aubrey George		MEMBERS	✓	Joedy Yglesias	✓	Shelly Abbott
✓	Nancy Thoss	✓	Liz Robbins	✓	Jeanette Geiman		
✓	Stan Drezek		Pam Ball		Gary Poole		CLASS 41 OBSERVERS
	ADVISORS		tbd Community Outreach	✓	Joe Gonzales	✓	Michael Britt
	Judit Green	✓	Keeley Porter		Vacant New Class 39 Rep		Kimya McIntosh

Note: **Quorum=9**: the 19 Board “positions” including the three advisors are filled only by 16 “members” as Nancy Thoss holds two positions (Treasurer & Membership) and two currently unfilled positions: Community Outreach & New Class 39 Representative.

New Class 40’s Karen Stevenson was appointed New Class Training Director at the conclusion of this Board meeting and Shelly Abbott may become Community Outreach with Tyler Sanderson of New Class 40 and Michael Britt (Kimya McIntosh alternate) of New Class 41 becoming the two New Class Representatives to the Board January 1, 2018.

With a quorum present, President Martha Cray called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors to order on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

MINUTES The emailed Minutes for last month’s meeting were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT The emailed Treasurer’s Reports were approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Martha Cray, President, announced that there would be a Board Retreat on Saturday 12-2-17 at the MRNA classroom beginning at 9 am. The Salsa Squad would be providing breakfast tacos, the meeting would adjourn at 10:30 for a tour lead by MRNA manager, Don Pylant, and then end about noon with an optional lunch. Suggestions for topics to be discussed should be sent to Martha by Tuesday November 21.

Martha also announced the AAMN annual Holiday Party would begin 6 pm at the Phil Hardberger Park UEC on Tuesday December, 12. Security is being provided so MNs may bring wine. MNs were encouraged to bring a favorite holiday dish.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Evelyn Penrod, Media & Technology, reported on the Demonstration Garden at Phil Hardberger Park. It is still in the design phase with a main loop and side loops. Judit Green is working on a recommended plant list. MNs involved in the garden are planning on assisting with a major event at the park on March 24th that would include marking the beginning of the land bridge.

NEW BUSINESS

Nancy Thoss, Treasurer, brought up the need to purchase a financial package for the Chapter. The pros and cons of Quicken and QuickBooks (which Nancy currently uses) were discussed. A motion was made and approved to authorize spending up to \$200 for software for the incoming Treasurer.

Keeley Porter, Historian, brought up an interesting idea. Since the first question people often ask in seeing a MN is "What Class?", why not put the class number on the badges. Rather than making a formal motion, the Board consensus was for Keeley to explore the idea possibly bringing to the Board some prototypes and cost information. The sense of the meeting was that, if feasible, future MNs would receive a badge with the class number and past MNs could purchase new badges/ re-engraving if desired.

Martha Cray, President, recommend to the Board Karen Stevenson as the New Class Training Director effective at the close of the meeting. A motion was made and it passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, ADVISORS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND/OR STANDING COMMITTEES

Sam Womble, AgriLife Advisor, was not present.

Judit Green, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Jessica Alderson, TPWD Advisor, was not present.

Martha Cray, President, see Announcements and New Business.

Liz Robbins, Past President, had no report.

Aubrey George, Vice President, had no report.

Nancy Thoss, Treasurer, had submitted the financial reports to the Board via email.

Stan Drezek, Secretary, had submitted the minutes to the Board via email.

Gary Poole, State Representative, while not present had sent Martha a report stating (1) 2018 Lone Star Land Steward award nominations were being requested (11/30 deadline) and (2) MNs donated a total of 267 lbs of food at the annual meeting to help with hurricane relief.

Pam Ball, Activities Information, was not present.

Joedy Yglesias, Programs, had no report.

Vacant, Community Outreach

Keeley Porter, Historian, received multiple and sustained praise for the job she did in instigating for and putting together a 20th year celebration. Loud applause greeted her attempt to minimize her efforts.

Camille Gong, Hospitality, reminded us to bring a favorite dish to the Holiday Party and a substantial item or lasagna to the Annual Lasagna Dinner at the January meeting.

Evelyn Penrod, Media and Technology, requested pictures of the anniversary gathering for posting on the website.

Nancy Thoss, Membership, announced that Kaye Cosby gained, believed first in our chapter, an Entomologist Specialist designation. She also announced Wendy Drezek and Michelle Garza gained the Texas Waters Specialist designation.

Jeanette Geiman, New Class Training Committee, reported an outstanding Class 41 with all 26 graduating, seven of whom received their initial certification and one who received initial plus 2017 certification.

Joe Gonzales, New Class 38 Representative, had no report to make.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER LIAISONS

Lissa Martinez, ACORN, reported that Project ACORN was doing well. She briefed the Board on a new training model being used for field trips and how it was used at Tara Oaks trailhead. She also informed the Board about MN Penny Boyer's solar powered mural presented at Luminaria and to be moved to the EPI Center. Finally, she reported on her conversations with Lottie Millsaps (NPSOT-SA) and Lottie's recommendation we plant more Hog Plum and Bluewood Condalia.

Tom Brotheman, Alamo Forest Partnership, reported on the Arbor Day events at Coronado Park giving away 90 trees. The same day 300 trees were given away at Solar Fest. Finally, there will be a fruit tree adoption 12-9-17 at Lincoln Park

Mike Startzell, FoSANA, was not present.

Howard Homan, HIW, was not present.

Donald Ewers, NPS/SARA, reported he had a good meeting with SARA's Mike Gramely. He then outlined his role on the SARA Environmental Advisory Committee and his focus on advocating SARA hire a volunteer coordinator. In addition, the committee will review and rank the 44 projects identified by the SARA executives.

George Ozuna, MRNA, reported 6,000 invasive plants were removed from MRNA this last month largely due to the extra help of the "Naval Squad." He reported on some efforts to link Texas A&M's science staff with MRNA with a water quality focus. In the garden, granite boulders were placed, equipment rented, and plant propagation efforts begun. They are working with a local school GT program which would do some propagation.

George also praised Mark Fanick's help in storing plants bought from such nurseries as the one in Rio Grande City and held until planting.

Finally, George reported on an initiative to add a 7 ac butterfly area.

Drake White, PHP Conservancy, reported on the October Project Acorn training of 112 students from Westwood Terrace ES. She also stated this was the time of year the garden is being "put to bed."

Jessica Leslie, TWW, not present.

Vacant, LHI.

Tyler Sanderson (Joedy Yglesias back-up), Green Spaces Alliance had no report to make but Joedy did add mention of their recent successful Flow Fest.

Michelle Garza, Texas Waters Specialist Program, was not present during the Board Meeting.

Lynn Richards, Mitchell Lake, was not present during the Board Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Keeley Porter, chair of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Committee, reported she is thinking about putting together a wrap up booklet for the anniversary celebration. She mentioned the idea of an annual event at one of the many park like Joshua Springs Park and Reserve but in a low-key easy to do picnic format.

Aubrey George, chair of the 2017 Financial Examination Committee, reported the committee met, reviewed materials presented by Nancy Thoss, and found everything in order.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. to allow time for socialization before the General Meeting.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President

ATTACHMENTS (none)

ALAMO AREA CHAPTER
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
November 14, 2017

MINUTES

President Martha Cray called the general membership meeting to order on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 6:45 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classroom 208.

Evelyn Penrod of the Officer Nominating Committee conducted the election of officers for Liz Robbins, committee chair. Evelyn reviewed the COH requirements and indicated one person was being nominated for each position and, before voting, on each position other nominations would be accepted from the floor.

Each position was taken one-by-one, the nominated candidate announced, other nominations were solicited, a motion was made in each case that "there being no further nominations, it is moved that candidate be accepted by acclamation." In all four cases the motion passed.

Our four officers, effective January 1st, 2018 will be:

Martha Cray, President
Donald Ewers, Vice-President
Jeanette Geiman, Treasurer
Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha then called for the program for the evening to begin. This evening's speaker was **Tyler Sanderson** of Green Spaces Alliance who spoke about the three thrusts of their organization: Land Conservation, Community Gardens, and Picture Your World (a children's nature photography experience). Tyler mainly concentrated on his area of land conservation. His audience appreciated the information, asked many questions, and applauded his efforts.

The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of the AT presentation.

Stan Drezek, Secretary

Martha Cray, President