

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist

Board Meeting

November 9, 4 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church

Attendees: Linda Jo Conn, Carolyn Henderson, Catherine Johnson, Sue Ann Kendall, Liz Lewis, Pamela Neeley, Alan Rudd, Don Travis

- I. Welcome
- II. Plant Native at the All Saints Episcopal (Liz Lewis and Carolyn Henderson)
 - a. What this means is that Liz Lewis suggested that we help the church by planting some native plants as they renovate the garden bed near their fountain. We would select plants and help plant them, but their gardening staff would maintain them. If plants don't work out, we'd replace them.
 - b. It was noted that we have many native plant experts who could suggest appropriate plants and a useful arrangement.
 - c. We also have connections to wholesale native plant nurseries in the area, so we could get plants at a reasonable price.
 - d. By show of hands, the Board unanimously agreed to undertake this.
- III. Award a member of the year designation? (Carolyn Henderson)
 - a. The intention was to encourage more participation by engaging in competition.
 - b. Who would be eligible?
 - i. The Board agreed with the suggestion that both elected and appointed officers be ineligible.
 - c. Criteria. There were many suggestions.
 - i. The winner would have contributed to projects that helped the community or nature.
 - ii. The award could go to a group of people who did a project.
 - iii. There could be multiple honorees.
 - d. Judges
 - i. Suggestion was that elected officers be the judges.
 - e. Prizes
 - i. Monetary awards were ruled out.

- ii. Certificates and small gifts were suggested.
 - f. Discussion
 - i. There was concern that the project could convey an impression of favoritism or lead to negativity from people who didn't "win."
 - ii. It might actually be divisive rather than helpful.
 - iii. The idea of honoring the best projects of the year at the holiday party was floated, and people seemed to think that was more inclusive.
 - g. The discussion on this topic was tabled with no decision. We will discuss it again at the next board meeting.
- IV. Finalize end of year party/meeting plans (Liz Lewis)
 - a. Party is December 14 at the smaller of the Venue locations on the square in Cameron. We will put out a sign to help people who seem very confused about the concept find the building.
 - b. Guests are welcome.
 - c. Barbara Dominguez will cater. Building rent is \$175.
 - d. We will ask for \$25 per person for the meal and dessert. You can pay Liz Lewis.
 - e. Bring your own alcohol, if desired.
- V. Nominees for office (Alan Rudd)
 - a. There were no suggestions to replace the current President and Vice President. They agreed to stay for one more two-year term.
 - b. Donna Lewis requests to no longer be Project Coordinator.
 - c. Carolyn suggested that we replace that position with a Publicity Coordinator, which is something that Linda Burgess has started doing.
 - d. Pamela Neeley's position is clarified to be both the Advanced Training and Volunteer Service coordinator. If anyone wants to get approved to do something, they should contact her and have a pleasant conversation (per Pamela).
 - e. Sue Ann Kendall suggested that we add to the bylaws that the President and Vice President be limited to two two-year terms, due to the stress of those jobs. Treasurer and Secretary would not have term limits. Don Travis agreed to look up any rules about this before we agree to anything. (Please see addendum at the end of these minutes.)

- f. The Board approved the slate of officers brought forth by Alan (of which I do not have a copy, but I'll try):
 - i. President: Carolyn Henderson
 - ii. Vice President: Liz Lewis
 - iii. Treasurer: Michael Conner
 - iv. Secretary: Sue Ann Kendall
 - v. Membership: Patricia Coombs
 - vi. AT/VS Coordinator: Pamela Neeley
 - vii. Nominating Committee and Student Training: Alan Rudd
 - viii. Hospitality: Ellen Luckey
 - ix. Communications: Michelle Lopez
 - x. Publicity: Linda Burgess
 - xi. State Representative and iNaturalist Cheerleader: Linda Jo Conn

- VI. Suggestions for next year (Carolyn Henderson)
 - a. This was about activities and field trips, I think.
 - b. She expressed thanks for the long list of ideas provided to her by Ann Collins, Linda Jo Conn, Sue Ann Kendall, and Jackie Thornton.
 - c. She will be happy to collect additional ideas.

- VII. Old business: none

- VIII. New business: already covered above.

- IX. Adjourn 5pm

One hour Administrative Activities at a Board meeting

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary

Addendum

Below are the results of Don Travis's research, for use in our next meeting:

Regarding our limiting the positions of President and Vice President to two 24-month terms, The Bylaws and our COH (Chapter Operating Handbook) both state that all Officers and Directors are "eligible" to serve for a period of 24 months (vs. the selectable option per chapter of 12 months per term), and all are "eligible" for re-election (Officers) or re-appointment (Directors). It would be fine for us to limit the two officer reelections to two consecutive terms as suggested with the option to serve again later, and if we approve then update our COH to state that at the next revision cycle - likely in 2024 sometime. Something to approve at the next Board meeting. My personal view is that we should let this be at the discretion of the existing President and VP to decide per their personal considerations at election time, and even to resign if desired for any personal or other reasons - rather than forcing it for all. Next board meeting discussion.

Regarding specific Director positions as appointed Board Members vs Committee leaders assisting Directors and Officers as needed, there is a defined list of these two somewhat different positions in the COH, based on the State template, which we can change as desired with State approval during the next update cycle. The Directors list includes: AT Director, VS Projects Director (which we combined with Pamela), State Representative, Communications Director, Membership Director, Training Class Director, and Training Class Representative (shorter terms likely, and which have not been using due to our smaller classes and active participation of Officers and Directors in the Classes, and students in our meetings. As for Committee leaders (and members) assisting Officers and Directors as appropriate, we listed a number of these, as provided by the State template, and it would be best to read all these committee suggestions and activities in the COH pages 11 and 12. Committee leaders would not be Directors and voting members of the Board, but certainly welcome to attend Board meetings as desired, as I think any member is able to.

Hope this summary helps!