

El Camino Real chapter Texas Master Naturalist Board Meeting

Agenda for March 24, 2023

11 a.m. All Saints Episcopal Church

9 attendees, so we have a quorum.

- I. Presentation by a few members at the Rockdale Rotary Earth Day Event.
 - A. Approval to print Bee brochures (see attached) for an Earth Day presentation as requested by Rockdale Rotary.
 - a. Carolyn Henderson, Donna Lewis, and Jackie Thornton will attend.
 - b. They will cover mostly native bees and plants.
 1. Update: Don Travis uploaded the files (she had to separate them into four individual images for printing), and the cost for 500 total flyers (250 of each double-sided) is now just \$358 with \$6 premium shipping of 6-8 days, so if ordered on board meeting day, arrive about 4/1. 100 was \$240. Update: order has been placed.
 2. The brochures are from University of Texas and are free to be distributed by the public. We could use them for other purposes.
 3. The discussion was whether to change the format or not.
 4. Movement for printing 250 sets was made by Sue Ann Kendall, and seconded by Donna Lewis. The motion passed.
 5. Jackie Thornton might have required a few things to be covered as expenses. But it turned out she has enough supplies to make the bee water fountains with no further help.
 6. The presentation is at 7 p.m. on April 20 at the Rockdale Library. It is open to the public.
- II. Student graduation: we are down to five students due to attrition. Some lost interest and some had issues come up. The remaining ones are very active. They will be finished in two weeks. r
 - A. Where and when to have a celebration?
 - a. Central Avenue Bistro: not enough space
 - b. The Venue at Railfan – Liz Lewis will ask Barbara Dominguez about catering prices and other expenses.
 - c. We would pay for our food except the students, Ann Collins, Kathy Lester, and Alan Rudd. This does not include everyone on the hospitality committee, just the organizer, Ann.

- d. Vegetarian food is necessary, also some options with meat. No specific requests for vegan food.
 - e. Dates: April Thursdays depending on availability,
 - B. Gifts for students: shirt, lanyard, keychains we already have, highway wildflower books that Donna already has, frog magnets. C. Budget available yes! Mostly free.
 - D. We request that people who stopped coming and haven't done so already send an email to Kathy Lester to officially withdraw. They will all be welcome at the next class with no registration fee, and they already have the book.
- III. Mother Neff State Park
 - A. Guided tour by an intern, then free to roam Saturday, April 15, 10 A.M. It is an Adopt A Loop park, so we can get iNat hours.
- IV. Planting trees on Earth Day, April 22 – we will meet to plant at 10 am, starting at City Park.
 - A. Cameron City Council Approval has been given.
 - B. Donations are coming in to buy trees.
 - C. We can replace a tree in the City Park, too, in addition to Orchard Park. We will do redbuds at Wilson Ledbetter in the fall. D. Earth Day and fall planting.
 - E. Native to Texas (burr oak is the current suggestion)
 - F. How will they be planted? With shovels, apparently. They will be small trees.
 - G. We will need a sign saying we planted it.
 - H. We will have lunch afterward to celebrate ourselves.
- V. McKinney Falls State Park May 20 – there are no campsites available, so no one can stay overnight.
- VI. Volunteer appreciation – lunch after the tree planting will be how we celebrate Volunteer Week.
- VII. New business
 - a. Linda Jo Conn: Is anyone doing a Birding Classic group that Pamela can join? No one is.

- b. Mike Conner proposed and moved that miscellaneous expenses on an approved project up to \$50 are automatically pre-approved. Carolyn seconded the motion; motion passed.
- c. Request from Mike Conner to change volunteer approval forms. Need to distinguish whether the request is for AT or Volunteer hours. There are two forms already available from Linda Jo. The suggestion is to add a checkbox. We approved informally.
- d. Mike is confused about approvals for projects, whether they are volunteer versus AT. Discussion of direct or indirect, which get approved by Pamela Neeley. The intent of the project is helpful to provide to Pamela when requesting approval, also saying whether a proposed event fits into the things we already have on our list. There was a long discussion of what counts, and liability issues that come up when representing ourselves as a Master Naturalist. The consensus is that if a thing is not on the list in the Volunteer Management System, it needs to go through the approval process.

VIII. Old business

- a. None

IX. Adjourn 12:15 pm

Sue Ann moved to adjourn, Liz Lewis seconded

1.25 hours VT Board Meeting

Minutes submitted by Sue Ann Kendall, Chapter Secretary