

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
November 11, 2009

Present: Julie Clay, Jim Gardner, John Huecksteadt, Bob McKinley, Martha Miesch, Phyllis Muska, Jim Stanley, Priscilla Stanley, Gracie Waggener

Absent: Steve Dodge, Will Lummis

President John Huecksteadt called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes for October Meeting:** The Board reviewed the Minutes from the October Meeting. Jim Stanley moved to approve the Minutes, and Julie Clay seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Martha Miesch presented the Treasurer's Report for October. Jim Gardner moved to approve the report, and Bob McKinley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **Holiday Party:** Martha Miesch also reported on the progress made on the Chapter Holiday Party. The party will be held on December 19, from 12 to 3 pm, at the River Bluff in Center Point. The committee has decided on a charge of \$6 per person to help cover the cost. The Party will be announced in the November Newsletter, by e-mail to Chapter members, and announced at the Chapter Meeting and Class.
4. **Nominating Committee:** Jim Stanley reported that nominations are fixed, and the election of new Board Members will be at the Chapter Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2009.

Susan Longacre has agreed to take the position of Communication Director. The Committee is still looking to fill the positions of New Class Director and Membership Director.

Bob McKinley will be working on a list of possible candidates who would possibly be interested in the New Class Director position, and will pass this list on to John Huecksteadt to begin calling. The Board discussed the idea of having more than one person in the position, and also having the New Class Committee help in running the classes.

John will notify the Board with any results from the search.

In other New Class business, the Board discussed and approved having the New Class Board Representative also serve on the New Class Committee. The Chapter Operating Handbook will be amended to show this change.

5. **Letters from the Chapter:** Chapter Member Lou McKaughan has re-activated the Enchanted Rock Volunteer Project. It has come to her attention that the vernal pools at the top of the dome, and rare plants they contain, are being heavily impacted by visitors to the park. Lou has requested that a letter from several organizations, including our Chapter, be written to Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife. The letter would request his help in protecting this valuable resource.

After much discussion, the Board agreed to suggest to Lou that she obtain separate letters from the different organizations, and also include letters to the Park Superintendent. The Board agreed to write a letter from the Chapter.

6. **TMN Gate Signs:** Gracie Waggener reported that she has found a company to make metal gate signs to sell to Chapter members. The Board agreed to purchase one sign, which will be used as the sample for selling. Phyllis Muska agreed to take on the task of doing the layout, and placing the order.

7. TMN Library: The Board discussed the possibility of establishing and maintaining a library of all the presentation materials and books that the Chapter has collected. This could be done by the Archivist, Susan Longacre, or by creating a new position of Librarian. As the new Director of Communications, Susan can either delegate this responsibility to another member, or manage it herself.

8. **Commencement:** Bob McKinley requested that the Board approve the expense of paying for the lunches of the Class Committee, class mentors and any Board members attending the class commencement on November 18, 2009. A motion to approve was placed by John Huecksteadt, seconded by Phyllis Muska, and approved by the Board.

9. **501(c)(3):** John Huecksteadt reported to the Board on the status of the 501(c)(3) for the Chapter. He is in need of the financial records from 2004 and 2005.

John will also need to write an addendum to the Chapter By-Laws to cover any conflict of interest issues. This will be sent to the Board Members for approval. Once these are completed the paperwork will be ready to submit to the State. The Board thanked John for all the work he has done on this project.

10. **Riverside Nature Center Snowball Event:** It was decided that a representative from the Chapter will work with Riverside Nature Center to help select and assist on properly planting a tree for their event.
11. **CPR Training:** Due to lack of an instructor, CPR Training for the Chapter will not happen at this time.
12. **Chapter Field Trips:** It was decided that field trips for the Chapter would be started again, as it has been some time since there was one. These trips could possibly be tied in to training for the LMAP Program, to develop additional LMAP leaders and field people.
13. **Volunteer Projects:** Priscilla Stanley reported that there are several new projects for volunteer opportunities, and some projects that were in-active are now re-activated. These include the new Bats and Bridges and the LANDs Program. Re-activated projects are Enchanted Rock State Park, and Love Creek Natural Area.
14. **Membership:** Julie Clay reported that she is working to update the membership list, as some members have changed addresses, and some have moved out of the area.

Julie is also working with Sandy Leyendecker on her first month as the Database Manager, and helping her learn the system. They plan to contact Lee Kneupper for help with the Access Program, and year end reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, December 16, 2009, at 1:30 pm at the Riverside Nature Center in the Classroom. All Hill Country Chapter members and advisors are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Gracie Waggener

Secretary