

Texas Master Naturalist- Hill Country Chapter
Board Minutes
June 22, 2011

Present: Steve Clyburn, Vern Crawford, Cathy Downs, Reidun Hilleman, John Huecksteadt, Phyllis Muska, Lisa Williams

Absent: Anne Cassidy, Koy Coffey, Susan Longacre, Bob McKinley

Also attending: Floyd Trefny, Sandy Leyendecker

President Phyllis Muska called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for April Meeting: The Board reviewed the Minutes for the May Meeting. John Huecksteadt moved to approve the minutes, and Vern Crawford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for May. Reidun Hilleman moved to approve the report, and Vern Crawford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Picnic Plans: Nature walks should be before 11:00 a.m. before the temperature rises. A walk to the rancher's site will be coordinated on site. Phyllis Muska will send out more detailed directions to the Cave Creek School. Steve Clyburn will bring contractor bags to be used for trash. Cathy Downs will bring the donation check to the picnic.

New Classes: Class Director Lisa Williams reported 17 applications had been received. The Board thanked her for her work. If more than 35 applications are received, all of the applications will be reviewed at the July board meeting.

Criteria for reviewing/accepting applicants: The guidelines written by Jim Stanley in 2005 were reviewed. The last sentence "Applicants will be accepted after the application deadline to permit a competitive evaluation of all applicants." was suggested to be removed. Lisa Williams and Koy Coffey will work together on selecting the mentors for the new class.

August meeting: Lisa Williams reported she had reserved the KACC. The Board of Directors will help in providing refreshments. Cathy Downs will ask Gracie Waggener if she would decorate the center. A sign-up sheet will be passed at the July board meeting for refreshments. The PowerPoint presentation by Paul Stafford will be played during the reception. Phyllis Muska will bring her laptop for the DVD.

State Meeting at Mo Ranch: Phyllis Muska presented ideas from Michelle Haggerty that the chapter could participate in. They included sponsoring the campfire, having an AT session, and Exemplary Project Nomination. A discussion about having a PowerPoint presentation about Cathy's butterfly tents was discussed and Cathy Downs will do something with it. A reminder

about the newsletter competition was mentioned and the need for our attending members to be sure to vote.

Member Retention Ideas: Koy Coffey sent out an e-mail to the board with some ideas. If anyone has something to add, please let Phyllis Muska know. If not, the list will be sent in as Koy presented.

Fundraising Ideas: The chapter has two fundraisers during the year: monogrammed items sold to members, and the plant sales. John Huecksteadt suggested two ways to earn money: 1) dues and/or 2) a donate button on the website. A discussion about obtaining donations and maybe using PayPal followed. An end-of-year recap letter was discussed as well as articles to the area newspapers on the year's accomplishments and giving an address to mail donations. It was suggested that web master Dean Schmelling might be able to look into this. Floyd Trefny also suggested looking at the website for Medina Children's Home to see an example of how they presented their donation request. Vern Crawford suggested putting a sentence on the website and newsletter about making memorials and donations. The discussion will continue at the July board meeting.

Holiday Party Plans: It will be hosted by Kendall and Bandera Counties. Date preference is December 3, 10 or 17 as a last resort. John Huecksteadt also suggested we could use a Sunday, if necessary. Reidun Hilleman will serve as the interim chairperson and will look into securing the house at Joshua Springs or another location.

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Officers and Directors Reports:

Past President: John Huecksteadt reported there might be a volunteer project at the Baron's Creek/Fort Martin Scott area. Reidun will contact Randy Rupley.

Volunteer Projects: Cibolo Nature Center is having a plant rescue on Saturday, June 25 in an area where the City of Boerne is doing some work. Reidun will send out an e-mail to members telling them about the project and the volunteer code to use.

Communications: Susan Longacre has looked into a sound system. It will be discussed further at the July board meeting.

With all Board business discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

The next Board Meeting will be July 20, 2011, at 1:30pm, at the Riverside Nature Center in the Nature Science Lab. All Hill Country Chapter members are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sandy Leyendecker, Acting Secretary