

Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
July 20, 2011

Present: Anne Cassidy, Steve Clyburn, Koy Coffey, Cathy Downs, Reidun Hilleman, John Huecksteadt, Susan Longacre, Bob McKinley, Phyllis Muska, Lisa Williams

Absent: Vern Crawford

Also attending: Jim Stanley, Past President

President Phyllis Muska called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for June Meeting: Cathy Downs made a motion to approve the minutes from the June Board Meeting. John Huecksteadt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Cathy Downs presented the Treasurer's Report for June. We have had more revenue than expenses so far this year. Bob McKinley made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Susan Longacre seconded and the motion was carried.

PA System: Susan Longacre asked the board for a consensus on whether the PA system was needed or not. The board agreed that it was a necessity. It was also agreed that the New Class Director would have custody. Susan said she had contacted zZounds who recommended 1 lavalier microphone and 1 speaker as base package. John Huecksteadt recommended 2 speakers as necessary to provide quality amplification. We will not get a break in price. The package recommended is:

2 powered speakers (portable) @ \$279.00
1 Wireless Microphone @ \$50.00
Cables \$10.00

The board had previously requested that the expense for this item not exceed \$500.00. Reidun made a motion to purchase 2 speakers of quality plus one microphone. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn. John Huecksteadt requested that the board have complete information on this proposal before approving. The information will be sent to all board members prior to an email vote.

Christmas Party plans & committee: Reidun Hilleman reported on the planning so far. She has explored the Ring Mountain Event Center at Joshua Springs Park and Preserve. This venue requires \$500.00 fee (non-negotiable), has seating for 100 and we do the clean-up. Hungry Horse is a possibility for catering. The other possibility is Cibolo Nature Center. Reidun has only explored location and catering to date. Phyllis Muska strongly advised that Reidun have a committee to do the planning. Most board members felt that \$500 was too high for the rental fee.

Review New Class Applications: Koy Coffey gave each board member 2 spread sheets with 1) the class applicants, and 2) applicants skills and interests. Phyllis Muska asked if any board members had any concerns about the applicants. Out-of-county applications were mentioned: We have always accepted "out of area" applications. It is up to those individuals to attend all of the classes and field trips. John Huecksteadt made a motion to accept all 30 applications for the Class of 2011. Cathy Downs seconded the motion. Motion carried. Koy stated that we would continue to accept applications after the deadline as we have 5 openings remaining. Once those are filled, we will not take any further applications.

Financial Aid Request: Koy Coffey reported that the individual who had inquired about financial aid sent in the full tuition amount. She did not remember that \$50 would be refunded upon certification. Phyllis Muska pointed out that there is a precedent for providing financial assistance and felt that we did not need a written procedure. In the future, each inquiry will be considered on a case by case basis.

New Class of 2011: The reception for the New Class will be held August 22 at the Kerrville Arts and Cultural Center. There may be 75 people in attendance. Lisa Williams asked members of the board to bring finger food. A signup sheet was passed around. Cathy Downs and Lisa Williams will work on a mentor list. Additionally, Lisa is still looking for a speaker for the hydrology lecture.

Acknowledgements Received: Phyllis Muska shared thank you letters received from the Kendall County Partnership for Parks for signage provided by the Hill Country Master Naturalists for Bluebird nest box trails in James Keihl Park and Kreuzberg Canyon Natural Area. We also received a thank you letter from the Canyon Lake Gorge Preservation Society for the memorial donation in Bill Ward's name.

Raising Funds for Chapter: At previous meetings it had been suggested that we have a "donate" button on the website for people to donate to the chapter on line. Phyllis Muska felt that we do not need to do this at this time. What we need to communicate is how donated funds will be used. John Huecksteadt suggested using our mission statement for this purpose. Bob McKinley added that it would be helpful for volunteers on a project to know that they had funding resources available. He suggested an email to project coordinators to ask for input on resources needed for projects.

Friend of the Chapter Award: Phyllis Muska asked that the board members think about a friend of the chapter to be recognized at the Christmas Party in December. We will discuss this further at the August board meeting. Jim Stanley suggested Steve Nelle; Bill Carr was also recommended.

Officers' and Directors' Reports

Susan Longacre reported that the newspaper notices have been timely. However, she has not heard public service announcements on Texas Public Radio even though she has sent the information to them in advance. Susan will follow up on this.

Jim Stanley stated that because of the drought, there is a good chance that we will not be able to hold a plant sale in the Fall at the annual Down By The Riverside event. He will get a recommendation from Riverside Nature Center and their board of directors and report back to the HCMN board.

Cathy Downs reported that we are committed to a gold sponsorship for the TMN state meeting, but she has not heard back from Michelle Haggerty regarding this. Phyllis said she would follow up with Michelle.

HCMN shirt samples have been ordered as well as 12 adjustable caps with the dragonfly logo only.

Cathy received confirmation on the butterfly tent presentation.

Lisa Williams reported that the New Class committee is on schedule with speakers, notebooks have been put together and the speakers' gifts ordered.

Steve Clyburn stated that he had received a request for an AT code outside our area. Phyllis suggested that the AT code be assigned, and not send to everyone, but put on the calendar.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

The next meeting will be **August 17 at 1:30 PM at RNC Nature Lab.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne Cassidy
Secretary