

**Texas Master Naturalist - Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
October 23, 2013**

Present: Carolyn Bean, Vern Crawford, Tom Hynes, Floyd Trefny, Stephen Bishop, Priscilla Stanley, Becky Etzler, Paula Smith, Daneshu Clarke

Absent: Michelle Haggerty, J.D. Clarke, Valeska Danielak

Also present: Bill Lindemann, Peggy Crate, Ann Schneider

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

Acceptance of Minutes for September 2013 Meeting: Tom Hynes made a motion to approve the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Paula Smith. Motion carried.

Wings Over the Hills – Bill Lindemann was present to address the Board regarding the Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center's (FFNC) spring festival, Wings Over the Hills. Bill stated that the Fredericksburg Rotary Club needed to withdraw their sponsorship for the festival and FFNC would like to find additional support to continue the festival. The event will be 3 days long beginning Friday morning, April 25, 2014, with a 3k walk and will close down the activities within the park on Saturday afternoon/evening with a party. On Sunday there will be field trips. Bill asked the board if HCMN would be interested in partnering with FFNC to produce the festival. The FFNC would be open to discussing sharing any profits made during the festival (note that the possibility of sharing profits also includes the possibility of sharing any losses, if such losses occur.) Additionally, FFNC would welcome help with advertising, on-line enrollment, and volunteer coordination. Last year's total budget was ~\$25,000.

Treasurer's Report: Floyd Trefny presented the Treasurer's Report. The summary report for September 2013 shows a balance of \$15,241. Floyd noted that the check from Western Edwards Plateau has been deposited and there are still outstanding checks that need to be cleared. Sales taxes were paid this month and Floyd also noted that he paid himself for the Stream Team test kit.

The Holding account for the TMN State Program shows a balance of \$47,521. Large deposits were made for tuition and donations. Additionally from this account T Bar has been paid another \$18k.

Tom Hynes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report; the motion was seconded by Paula Smith. Motion carried.

Floyd Trefny reviewed the Chapter's budget-to-date and noted that our expenses are tracking within \$400 and our income is also tracking close. Tom Hynes suggested that the mentor's for the 2012 class be notified that several people from the class are not on track to certify before the end of this year and will therefore lose their refunds.

Budget Discussion for 2014 – Floyd Trefny provided a budget proposal for 2014 and stated that the goal is to have next year's budget approved prior to the new board members beginning next year. The proposed budget overspends ~\$1200. Stephen Bishop asked what the likelihood is that we meet the projected donation in the budget and what the fund raising estimate was based on. Floyd asked that all board members review the budget and note changes/suggestions for November's BoD meeting.

Finance Committee Discussion – Floyd Trefny suggested that with the amount of money flowing through the State's holding account and the HCMN account there is a need for board members other than the Treasurer to be more involved in the finances to protect the chapter and the chapter's status as a non-profit. Paula Smith suggested that non board members who are interested in the chapter's finances participate on the committee. Vern Crawford recommended that the board be a combination of BoD members and non BoD members. Paula suggested that the past Treasurer be part of the committee. Floyd asked that Stephen Bishop write a charter for the committee and present to the BoD in November for approval.

Brochures for Texas Master Naturalist Program – Paula Smith reported that Ginny DeWolfe asked that MN program brochures that have already been printed have HCMN labels attached and be available for promoting our chapter. This would augment our standard rack cards that point to our website.

Donation to Lions Camp – Becky Etzler requested a check for \$325 payable to the Lions Camp as payment for the classroom and a gift of support. Floyd Trefny reported that the check has already been sent.

Board Meeting Dates: Tom Hynes said that the November BoD meeting will be on the 11th and Chapter meeting will be on November 18. (Post meeting note: the November BoD meeting will be on the 13th at Cibolo Nature Center.) The December BoD meeting is scheduled on December 11. The HCMN Holiday Party will be on December 14.

2013 Holiday Party – Tom Hynes reported that there has been a visit to Kerr Wildlife Management Area (KWMA) to review the venue and discuss its use for the holiday party. This year's theme is 'A Naturalist Holiday Celebration'. Phyllis Muska will manage the menu. Menu and price are needed prior to drafting the flier. Linda Ross is the RSVP person and will collect payments. Friends of the Chapter will also be invited. There will be a 10 guided trail walks and the meal will be at noon. A Master of Ceremony is needed.

Guidelines for Newsletter Announcements – Vern Crawford said that Lenore Langsdorf is looking for guidance on whether to publish a questionable activity in the newsletter and Daneshu Clarke stated that there is already an AT assigned to the activity and therefore publishing the information is not necessary.

2013 Class Update – Becky Etzler reported that the class is going well and the commencement will be on November 13 at CNC beginning at 8:30 am. All BoD members are invited.

Discussion regarding Bill Lindemann's request – Paula Smith asked that we have a discussion now regarding Bill Lindemann's request to partner with FFNC. The group agreed that we do not have the funds required to be a partner, but we should make a \$1000 donation and encourage volunteer activity in the event. Next year the idea of partnership can be addressed again.

Nominating Committee Update – Priscilla Stanley noted that all three open officer positions for 2014 BoD now have candidates selected who are active, certified members. The nominees are Kathy Ward (class of 2012) for Vice President, Sarah Hilburn (class of 2012) for Secretary and Diane McMahon (class of 2005) for Treasurer. The committee plans to make recommendations for Board Directors at the November Board meeting.

Paula Smith moved to accept the nominations; motion was seconded by Tom Hynes. Motion carried.

Plant Sale Update – Priscilla Stanley noted that a \$1,227.54 check has been given to Floyd Trefny which is 50% of the income from the plant sale after expenses.

Officer and Director Reports:

Tom Hynes: Noted that we need to decide whether or not to renew the lease for the UGRA auditorium for the 2014 monthly chapter meetings. The cost is \$526.50 for nine meetings.

Daneshu Clarke moved to accept the UGRA as our 2014 location and approve the payment; the motion was seconded by Becky Etzler. Motion carried.

November program speaker will be Nita Hazle speaking on the "Vernal Pools of Enchanted Rock."

Floyd Trefny: Nothing else to report.

Stephen Bishop: Said that as of September 30, 2013 we have over 23,000 volunteer hours reported. There are 68 active projects. A special code has been assigned to transfer legacy hours for our newest members from the Western Edwards Plateau chapter.

Priscilla Stanley: Discussed some miscellaneous issues of producing and maintaining rack cards in various areas.

Carolyn Bean: Nothing else to report.

Daneshu Clarke: Reported that there has been 228 Advanced Training codes issued year-to-date.

Becky Etzler: Nothing else to report.

Meeting Decisions:

- Agreed to sponsor the Wings Over the Hills with a donation and encourage volunteer involvement
- Stephen Bishop will write charter for new finance committee
- Approved the candidates for the 2014 BoD positions
- Approved UGRA lease

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 PM.

The next meeting will be November 13, 2013 at 1:30 PM at Cibolo Nature Center following the New Class Commencement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Bean
Secretary