

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2014

Present: Vern Crawford, Sarah Hilburn, Kathy Ward, Priscilla Stanley, Becky Etzler, Bob Wiedenfeld and Lisa Flanagan.

Absent: Stephen Bishop, Liz Ross, Diane McMahon, Rod Boertje, Donna Oliver-Leep, and Michelle Haggerty

President Vern Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:34PM.

Approval of October 22, 2014 Minutes: Lisa Flanagan made a motion to approve the October 22, 2014 minutes. The motion was seconded by Becky Etzler. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The holding account had a balance of \$45,035.88.

The regular account had a balance of \$17,934.03.

Becky Etzler made a motion to accept the treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded by Sarah Hilburn. Motion carried.

Discuss and Approve 2015 Budget: Kathy Ward questioned the line item for the Chapter Socials. Becky Etzler made a motion to approve the 2015 Budget. The motion was seconded by Bob Wiedenfeld. Motion carried.

2014 Class Update: Vern Crawford and Lisa Flanagan reported that this group of new members have really bonded. The new class members from the former Western Edwards Plateau (WEP) have been carpooling. The group wanted to continued meeting once a month as a group.

Tuition Refunds for qualifying WEP Master Naturalists: Becky Etzler created a spreadsheet and she will correspond with membership and refund these members as they meet initial certification requirements.

Nominating Committee Update: Priscilla Stanley thanked the members of her nominating committee; Phyllis Muska, Cathy Downs, and Becky Etzler. Priscilla reported that the Director positions have been filled and will be appointed after the slate of officers have been accepted at the November 17, 2014 Annual Membership Meeting.

Continued Board Representation from WEP Counties: Vern Crawford suggested that we continue to have a representative from the Western Edwards Plateau counties. Discussion followed and it was suggested by Becky Etzler to appoint delegates from each county and invite these delegates to attend the Chapter Board Meetings. This recommendation will be voted on by the 2015 Board.

Board Retreat Planning: The Board Retreat will be scheduled on January 10, 2015 from 9:00-3:00. Vern Crawford will follow up with Camp C.A.M.P. to ensure that we can meet at this location. Discussion followed about whether to hire Rose Mary Fry to facilitate half a day of the retreat. It would cost \$500 plus her expenses. Michelle Haggerty had sent an email stating that she would give our Chapter \$250 to be used to pay a portion of Mary's fee. The Chapter will pay the remaining \$250 plus expenses.

Lisa Flanagan made a motion to hire Rose Mary Fry to facilitate half a day of the retreat. The motion was seconded by Bob Wiedenfeld. Motion carried. Vern Crawford will send an email to the new directors.

Update on Holiday Party: The holiday party will be at the large building or pavilion at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park in Fredericksburg. Kathy will send an email with directions to the pavilion.

Officers' and Directors' Reports:

Becky Etzler: Thirty new class members out of the thirty-six met the attendance requirements. This class has had the best attendance to date. Becky reported that Ronald Hood will receive his emerald pin for 10,000 volunteer hours. Only five members have received this honor in the state of Texas. The Board decided to award Ron a plaque at the cost of \$30.00 to be taken out of the Communications budget line. Bob Wiedenfeld made a motion to buy a plaque for Ronald Hood. The motion was seconded by Kathy Ward. Motion carried.

Kathy Ward: Nyta Brown will not have dinner before the Chapter Meeting on November 17, 2014.

Lisa Flanagan: Nothing else to report.

Bob Wiedenfeld: Nothing else to report.

Priscilla Stanley: Nothing else to report

Sarah Hilburn: Nothing else to report.

Vern Crawford: Nothing else to report.

Meeting Decisions:

*Approved the October 22, 2014 minutes

*Accepted the Treasurer's reports

*Approved the 2015 Budget

*Approved Rose Mary Fry to facilitate a half day of our January 10, 2015 retreat. The Chapter will pay \$250 plus expenses. Michele Haggerty will contribute \$250.

*Approved buying plaque to honor Ronald Hood.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08PM.

The next meeting will be December 8, 2014 at 1:30 at the Riverside Nature Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Hilburn

Secretary