

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
Riverside Nature Center
April 25, 2016

Present: Brenda Fest, Kathy Ward, Floyd Trefny, Rheda Boardman, Diane McMahon, Bridget Langdale, Lisa Flanagan, Vern Crawford, Sara Hilburn, Pamela Lienhard, Claire Mitchell, Diana Armbrust
Absent: Michele Haggerty, Roy Walston, Lisa Barrett, Liz Ross
Quorum Met: 70%

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 1330.

Welcome and Review Agenda

Operational

- Approval of March 28, 2016 minutes-Rheda Boardman
Diane McMahon made a motion to accept the March minutes.
Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.
Motion carried
- Approval of Treasurer's Reports – Diane McMahon
Floyd Trefny made a motion to accept the March Treasurer's reports.
Kathy Ward seconded the motion.
Motion Carried
Diane reported that E990-n was filed and accepted and all insurances are paid.
- Vice President's Report on Programs – Floyd Trefny
 1. April 25, 2016 "Monarch Butterfly Update"-Cathy Downs
 2. May 23, 2016 "Scimitar-horned Oryx" –Colleen Gardner of Selah-Bamburger Ranch
 3. June 27, 2016 "Tawny (Raspberry) Crazy Ants"-Robert T. Puckett-Texas A&M Agrilife.
 4. September 26, 2016"Viticulture"- Andrew Labay-Texas A&M AgrilifeDiscussion was led by Floyd in changing the June meeting from June 27th to June 20th. Decision by the board was not to change the meeting date.
Floyd reported the attendance at last month's meeting was 103. Eight guest from Kerr County Animal Control and five guest from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Strategic Initiatives

- Chapter Honorary Member nomination – Mike Krueger – Floyd Trefny
Updated Bio presented by Floyd and reviewed by the board. Nomination has been endorsed by Michele Haggerty.
Membership will vote at the May meeting.
Past Honorary Members: Bill Lindemann, Susan Sander, Rufus Stephens, Bill Ward, David Langford, Steve Nelle, Stephen King

Floyd Trefny made a motion nominating Mike Krueger for HCMN Honorary member.
Diane McMahan seconded the motion.
Motion carried.
- Exxon Grants, laptop and expenses for Old Tunnel – Sarah Hilburn and Floyd Trefny
Sarah presented background history on Old Tunnel and the importance of a computer. Nyta Brown is unable to accept cash but can accept a merchandise donation. When the funds are available from Exxon Floyd will purchase the computer for Old Tunnel.
Lisa Flanagan made a motion to approve \$4500 to Floyd Trefny to be used to purchase computer equipment for Old Tunnel.
Kathy Ward seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
Grant History:
The chapter has received \$4,000 to date from Exxon: \$2,500 Old Tunnel and \$1,500 Kerrville Schreiner Park and Monarch projects.
Expecting \$2,000 from Exxon by April 30, 2016
4-2016 Exxon Grant has been applied for. \$3,000 is in the 2016 budget. Money is slow in receiving from Exxon. \$1,000 will probably come in 2017.
A \$500 2016 Exxon Grant has been applied for. The money from this grant will be used for the Kerrville Schreiner Butterfly Garden instead of the Riverside Nature Center Healing Garden.
Vern Crawford made a motion that the \$500 2016 Exxon Grant be used for the Kerrville Schreiner Butterfly Garden.
Brenda Fest Seconded the Motion
Motion Carried
- Kerr County Courthouse Pollinator Garden – Pamela Lienhard
Pamela thanked Brenda and the committee for their help in moving this project forward.
Plans are to start the large bed in one week. A smaller plot is in preparation phase.
Budget will be prepared by Pamela. She will submit to board and request a donation for funds to pay for supplies for the garden.
- Field trip instead of May picnic
Due to the amount of Advanced Training offered to membership the board decision at this time is not to add field trips. Field trips and the need for a Field Trip Director may need to be revisited in the future.
- Holiday Party
Floyd will check on available dates in December for lunch at the Y.O. Ranch.

Diane said it may be possible to have the party at River Hill Country Club and thought the cost may be \$20 a person. She will check with the Country Club on availability.

Brenda will ask at tonight's membership meeting for volunteers for planning the event.

- Uncleared checks

Texas Parks and Wildlife presenter checks are made payable to Texas Parks and Wildlife, with the presenter's name on the memo line. The presenter is to submit the check to his/her local TPW management.

Brenda is working on getting the uncleared checks resolved.

Lisa: B Gierisch & D Gierisch will be issued new checks. The stop payment fees for the previous uncashed checks will be deducted from the check amount.

Further discussion tabled until problems with remaining uncleared checks are completed.

Director's Reports

- Membership– Lisa Flanagan

Currently 11 people have submitted applications.

Application, payment, background check, and VMS are all completed online.

Payments are via Amazon.

July 13, 2016 is the deadline

- Advanced Training – Liz Ross

No Report

- Volunteer Projects – Claire Mitchell

Blooms & Barrels": sign up of eight visitors

Nature Tracker in Gillespie County is an ongoing project.

- Communications – Bridget Langdale

Hand out of 2016 Class Brochures Distribution

The brochures were dispensed to multiple sites in ten counties by April 1, 2016.

Distributor had to report on where and how many were left at each site.

It was suggested that the new flyer be used as a future flyer template.

1000 brochures cost \$200

- New Class – Diana Armbrust

Review of handouts:

1. Recommended Expense Budget Increase for 2016

2. What Is Costing More In 2016

3. Bottom Line Effect of Adding Additional Trainees

Diane McMahan recommended increasing the expense budget for 2016.

Bridget Langdale made a motion to increase the new class budget to \$5,200.

Kathy Ward seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

Motion withdrawn

Diane McMahan made a motion to authorize new class budget of \$5,200 for 37 trainees based on the report provided at meeting.

Bridget Langdale Seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Resource Development

- Makeup Classes – Diana Armbrust and Lisa Flanagan
Tabled

- Bandera Natural History Museum Landscaping

On March 29th the grounds were surveyed.

The project is a 5-year plan. The project will start with the pollinator garden.

Monarch Grant application will be submitted on May 2, 2016

- Class Representative Lisa Barrett has missed four board meetings due to medical problems.

Brenda recommended Lisa not be removed from the board.

Meeting Decisions

- Approved the March 28, 2016 Board Meeting minutes
- Approved the Treasurer's reports
- Approved nomination of Mike Krueger to be an Honorary Member
- Approved \$4,500 Exxon Grant funds to be used for computer equipment for Old Tunnel
- Approved \$500 be reassigned to Kerrville Schreiner Butterfly Garden
- Approved increase in New Class budget
- Decision not to add field trips
- Decision to have a Holiday Party in December.

Announcements

- Monthly Meeting: Monday, May 23, 2016
- May 23 Board Meeting at AgriLife Office at 1:30 pm – Note the location change.

Adjourn: 1600