

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter Board Meeting

Riverside Nature Center

Monday March 27, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE

Present: Brenda Fest, Craig Childs, Ann Dietert, Kris Bobbitt, Lisa Flanagan, Tom Harrigan, Dave Davies, Reggie Cox, Paula Harley, Larry Eskridge, Bridget Langdale, Kathy Ward, Claire Mitchell.

Absent: Michelle Haggerty, Roy Watson, Vern Crawford.

Quorum met: Yes.

WELCOME AND REVIEW AGENDA

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm and welcomed all present.

OPERATIONAL

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Kathy Ward presented the motion that the minutes be approved and Lisa Flanagan seconded.

The Treasurer's Report from the previous meeting were approved. Kathy Ward presented the motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved and Dave Davies seconded. Treasurer Ann Dietert said that she had obtained a credit/debit card from Kerr Country Federal Credit Union for the Amazon account for receiving tuition from the New Class members. Lisa Flanagan presented a motion that was seconded by Kathy Ward that Ann Dietert be the keeper of the card and that Ann has authority to see how the card is used. Ann also said that she would resolve whether the actual card had to be signed on the back or if the signature line could state "See Identification."

The Vice President's Report on Programs was presented by Craig Childs. He advised that Dick Powell, Director of Mo Ranch Land Management would be speaking in either September or October. It was determined that last month's speaker went too long; the speaker is allowed approximately 45 minutes for a total length of one hour for the complete meeting. Craig has suggested that the stipend be donated to the speaker's organization as an option.

The Quarterly Report (QR) on the speakers was discussed. Craig will check with Kristie Denbow about whether the QR should be published on the chapter web site. Brenda said that the QR should be published in the minutes.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Survey. Kathy Ward advised that she has received the survey results but the responses have not yet been compiled. She received approximately 15 completed surveys.

Lost Maples AT. Larry Eskridge said that the Lost Maples State Natural Area Advanced Training (AT) is a Hill Country sponsored AT. Specific items are being developed. A document will be produced regarding this training with specific examples pertaining to Lost Maples. For example, Jim Stanley will give an interpretative hike on May 3. Rain date is May 17. Larry is looking for several Master Naturalists to give classes throughout the day. There will be a hybrid AT class/volunteer project with The Friends of Lost Maples. Details are pending but it might be held twice at 9:00 am and 2:00 pm or all day. There are no buildings for training, so it will be held under a canopy with camp chairs.

Hill Country Chapter's 15th Anniversary. Brenda Fest brought up the topic of the Hill Country Chapter's 15th anniversary, which is this year. She said that a committee will be formed to work with Susan Sander, Riverside Nature Center's (RNC) naturalist, regarding a combined type of celebration as it is the 25th anniversary of RNC this year as well. Lisa Flanagan and Brenda will co-chair the committee, and Francoise Wilson and Paula Harley volunteered to be on the committee. Brenda mentioned the following items: anniversary T-shirts, encouraging chapter members to attend the Texas Master Naturalist (TMN) state meeting in Corpus Christi this year. The Chapter Representative received \$75.00 from the chapter

to help with costs. She said that it costs about \$600 for room, food, and suggested rooming together to save on costs. One reason to have a larger representation from the chapter is that each year special anniversaries of the various chapters are honored at the convention. She added that TMN's 20th anniversary is next year, 2018.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Membership with Lisa Flanagan Lisa announced a change in her email addresses. Do not use the hotmail account. Instead, use new address terlinguagirl@gmail.com or hillcountrymembership@gmail.com.

The trifold's pictures and fonts are being updated. Paula is working on the bi-fold and brought in several dining room table pads that could be used for mounting presentations which she offered to anyone who could use them.

Lisa read aloud the text of the form letters that will go to people inquiring about the upcoming new class and the letters will be sent to those applicants who have not been accepted into the new class. Rubrics will be used to evaluate applications and Larry will send to the board every application with a rubric. It was advised that these should be completed as received and not at the last minute.

Advanced Training with Tom Harrigan

Tom advised that he has published 107 AT opportunities to date. Regarding the issue of email problems in mailing multiple emails to multiple recipients which are rejected as spam. He took the VMS training and the result is that VMS cannot be used for these AT announcements.

Volunteer Projects with Claire Mitchell

Claire advised that there are no new projects this month.

Communications with David Davies

Dave advised a press release went out last week regarding the new class and that applications were being accepted after April 1. The distribution of rack cards is progressing, and he needs Kerr County volunteers. There will be a chapter table at Barrels & Blooms on the 8th. Announcements will be on Encore radio and on the local Texas Public Radio.

The Care Committee meets at Mamacita's tonight before the meeting.

New Class Committee with Reggie Cox

Lonnie Childs will not be making a presentation for the new class. The new class is being offered an AT at Old Tunnel to view the bats on September 27, which is a Wednesday night. She is ordering forty books for the new class plus ten extra. The new class notebooks will be assembled by the new mentors at their training during the first week in August.

Brenda advised that since training classes will no longer be held at Lion's Camp, the same donation as given in past years will be given to them for this year. It was estimated as \$325. Brenda said that she would personally deliver the letter and donation to the director of the Lion's Camp.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

No presentation.

REVIEW DECISIONS

Both the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted by motion/vote.

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