

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter Board Meeting
Riverside Nature Center
Monday May 27, 2017

Welcome and Review Agenda

Brenda Fest welcomed all present and reviewed the agenda.

Administrative

Present: Brenda Fest, Craig Childs, Ann Dietert, Kris Bobbitt, Lisa Flanagan, Tom Harrigan, Reggie Cox, Paula Harley, Kathy Ward.

Absent: Claire Mitchell, Dave Davies, Vern Crawford, Michelle Haggerty, Roy Watson.

Quorum met: Yes.

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

Operational

- The Minutes by Kris Bobbitt from the previous meeting were approved. Kathy Ward made the motion, and Lisa Flanagan seconded.
- The Treasurer's Report for April 2017 by Ann Dietert was approved. Kathy Ward made the motion, and Tom Harrigan seconded.
- Vice President's Report on Programs – Craig Childs. The political panel has not yet started. Dick Powell from Mo Ranch will speak later in the year on wildlife management with an emphasis on volunteer projects, i.e., bird census. The June presentation will be on suburban deer.

Strategic Initiatives

- Chapter 15th Anniversary – Brenda Fest, Lisa Flanagan, Paula Harley. No work has been done on this project due to various health issues of committee members.
- TXMN 20th Anniversary has not yet begun. The Hill Country Chapter will share the Ipad Camera Kit with the Alamo Chapter to conduct interviews.
- Chapter sponsored Advanced Training (AT) classes – Larry Eskridge. The Lost Maples event went well, and Lost Maples personnel would like to co-sponsor AT classes with the chapter in the future. Vern Crawford videotaped the storytelling portion, which can be used for the TXMN State Meeting.

The South Llano River State Park has a new superintendent who is short-handed and needs volunteers for wildlife and children's events. We will consider this location for our next chapter sponsored AT.

Directors' Reports

- Membership Director – Lisa Flanagan. To date, there are 20 applications; #11 withdrew. An individual who received training similar to Texas Master Naturalists while living in Georgia wants to join TXMN. Michelle Haggerty was consulted; this individual is very knowledgeable and has taught many of the topics in the course, so auditing AT classes will be an option. According to a report, some individuals in each class from 2013-2016 did not certify. In the future, the CARE group will draw those people into volunteering.

Brenda discussed current applicant process scoring sheet, emphasizing familiarity prior to using the scoring process. The board meeting for July will be on the tenth when the actual process will take place. There will be changes in the Chapter Operating Handbook regarding changes in the process. In the event that several candidates are similar in qualities, the date that the application was submitted will be the deciding factor. At the next board meeting a discussion will take place regarding how questions are weighted. Craig Childs suggested using just three rating numbers to be clear. There was one application that did not have all boxes checked; the application cannot be reviewed prior to submission on the computer. Lisa will call people with incomplete applications.

- Advanced Training Director – Tom Harrigan. Any criteria in the VMS can be targeted. Specific email groups can be created, such as by county or zip code; Claire can use these lists to send emails to targeted groups regarding projects, for example. The VMS is easily programmable. Brenda advised Reggie Cox, the New Class Director, that class attendance will be not be taken using VMS.
- Volunteer Projects Director – Clair Mitchell. Not in attendance.
- Communications Director – Dave Davies. There is no report today as Dave broke his leg and is not in attendance.
- New Class Director – Reggie Cox. A motion was made that the Class Committee should not have to pay for the trip to Bamberger and that the chapter will pay instead from the New Class Budget. Tom made the motion, Kathy seconded, and the Board approved.

Resource Development

- Idea/Comments that did not fit into the above categories. Lisa has a box available to be used as the Suggestion Box at the chapter meetings. The Annual Meeting will be discussed at June's Board meeting. The idea of a Silent Auction was put forth for the next meeting.

Announcements/Conclusion

- Three motions were passed.
 - The Minutes were approved.
 - The Treasurer's Report was approved.
 - The motion that Class Committee's fee the Bamberger field trip will be paid from the New Class Budget was approved.
- The July Board Meeting will be on **JULY 10 at 2:30 at RNC** to score the applications for the new class.