

Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter Board Meeting MINUTES
Riverside Nature Center
Monday June 26, 2017

Administrative

Present: Brenda Fest, Craig Childs, Ann Dietert, Kris Bobbitt, Lisa Flanagan, Dave Davies, Reggie Cox, Paula Harley, Clarence Reed, Kathy Ward.

Absent: Tom Harrigan, Claire Mitchell, Vern Crawford, Michelle Haggerty, Roy Walston.

Quorum met: Yes.

Guest: Clarence Reed.

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

Welcome and Review Agenda

Brenda Fest welcomed all present.

Operational

- Secretary – Kris Bobbitt. The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Kathy Ward made the motion and Dave Davies seconded; approved.
- Treasurer – Ann Dietert. The Treasurer's Report from the previous meeting was approved. Kathy Ward made the motion and Reggie Cox seconded. Ann advised that the check to Chad North (previously discussed in previous meetings) was over six months old, thus invalid. Ann contacted Mr. North who concurred with destroying the check and not replacing it.
- Vice President Report – Craig Childs. General meeting speaker topic are: ticks for July, Mo-Ranch for September, Bob Howells will discuss mollusks for October. January and February are to be determined.

Strategic Initiatives

The 15th Anniversary. Lisa Flanagan presented choices with the slogans submitted from a canvass of the members. Discussion included suggested placement of designs on the shirts, graphic designs, and colors. A tentative timetable was set in place. The new class will have shirts available to them.

Guest Presentation

Clarence Reed presented an idea for a project in support of Apache Tree Grant Program, a philanthropy from the Apache Corporation, a Houston based company. The program has been in operation for ten years and to date they have donated four million trees to a variety of organizations and two areas devastated by wildfires. A discussion took place regarding how the Chapter could take part in this project. It was determined that the deadline for applying for the trees was June 7 to July 31, 2017; this will be addressed next year. Brenda will call Jim Stanley regarding ideas about this project.

Strategic Initiatives (Continued)

The Panel Discussion Project. The details for the panel discussion on the political process to support one of Master Naturalists' mission is in the process, Craig reported. The panel discussion will explore how to engage in the political process, support participation in the political process, and provide a science-based vocabulary to talk environmentalism specifically to bring shared idealism together to overcome politics. Specifically, how to avoid trigger words, creating an "elevator" speech, etc. An AT will be developed to address this. The schedule for the panel discussion will be specific

talks about individual topics one after the other and then a roundtable discussion. A breakout set of discussions will take place and then a full meeting to summarize what was learned.

A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Ann regarding the panel discussion: First, the AT will take place in September/October. Second, the panel discussion highlights will be incorporated into the state meeting October 20. Third, the highlights from the panel discussion will be summarized and presented at the January or February chapter meeting. The motion passed.

Directors' Reports

- Membership Director. Lisa Flanagan. There were 38 total new class applicants, but two have withdrawn for a total of 36 applicants. Email responses for mentor training are coming in, however, the number of 40 mentor applications has not been met yet. Regarding a complaint that the chapter meetings are too long, it was noted that the streamlining has already shortened the process. January through March are longer due to the holidays and more recipients during those months. No move to shorten the process will take place as the recipients are honored by the chapter as well as the public is made aware of the volunteering aspect of Texas Master Naturalist.
- Advanced Training Director. Tom Harrigan. Not present.
- Volunteer Projects Director. Claire Mitchell. Not present.
- Communications Director. Dave Davies. Vern Crawford's photos of the members receiving pins/awards at the chapter meetings are for use in the monthly newsletter. Bridget Langdale advised that the C.A.R.E. Committee is losing members and needs ideas for recruiting.

Dave said that Kristie Denbow advised that rack cards are cost effective and more memorable. Kathy made a motion that two rack cards will be distributed; one version will be generic, and the other will have class information during the application period. Craig seconded. Motion passed.

- New Class Director. Reggie Cox. There is no locked storage in the UGRA classroom, there is minimal use of the room keeping items in the room may be possible. The air conditioner must remain on "Auto." The notebooks are ready to print. Things are going smoothly. The mentor training will be July 28 at her house.

Resource Development

- Brenda advised that the COH Appendix A needed changing: (1) the application process dates will be changed to April 1 through June 30, and (2) the sending of checks will not be required with the application and instead be within two weeks after notification of acceptance via email. These changes will be sent to the board by email.

Motions

- The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Kathy Ward made the motion and Dave Davies seconded; approved.
- The Treasurer's Report from the previous meeting was approved. Kathy Ward made the motion and Reggie Cox seconded.
- A motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Ann regarding the panel discussion: First, the AT will take place in September/October. Second, the panel discussion being incorporated into the TXMN state meeting October 20. Third, the panel discussion will go "on the road" to other chapter meetings starting with the January chapter meeting presentation. The motion passed.
- Kathy made a motion that two rack cards will be distributed; one version will be generic, and the other will have class information during the application period. Craig seconded. Motion passed