

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting
Riverside Nature Center
September 26, 2016

Present: Brenda Fest, Kathy Ward, Bridget Langdale, Lisa Flanagan, Claire Mitchell, Floyd Trefny, Liz Ross, Sandy Leyendecker, Sarah Hilburn (Subbing for Rheda Boardman)

Absent: Roy Walston, Michelle Haggerty, Rheda Boardman, Diane McMahon, Larry Eskridge, Diana Armbrust, Vern Crawford
Quorum Met: 54%

President Brenda Fest called the meeting to order at 1340

Welcome and Review of Agenda

OPERATIONAL

*Approval of August 22, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes-Rheda Boardman

Lisa Flanagan made a motion to accept the August Minutes

Kathy Ward seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

*Approval of Treasurer's Reports-Diane McMahon

Liz Ross made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports.

Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

*Vice President's report on Programs-Floyd Trefny

September 26, 2016- "Viticulture", Andrew Labay-Texas A&M Agrilife (Confirmed)

October 24, 2016- "Citizen Science", Forest NASA-(Confirmed)

November 11, 2016- "Update on ABK's Baseline Data", James Rice-Texas Park and Wildlife Department

December 10, 2016-Christmas Party

Strategic Initiatives

*New class selection (special exceptions) Lisa Flanagan

Lisa Flanagan asked the Board to consider allowing a 17-year-old in the 2017 class because the potential member will be 18 in October 2017 and will be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all the classes and field trips. This will be discussed further at the 2017 July Board meeting.

*New Class member selection rubric-Larry Eskridge (absent)

*Changes to next year's application-Lisa Flanagan

It will be stressed that the application process is a three-part process; application, VMS sign-up, and payment. A reminder to complete all blanks will be added to the application. Applicants need to list their full name and list the name they want to be called. It will be considered to take out the question about "occupation". Floyd Trefny made the suggestion to match the application questions to the membership guidelines in the Chapter Operating Handbook guidelines.

It was also suggested to have the classes meet in a larger venue like the room at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority building, offer classes twice a year, that new members should attend 3 of the 4 field trips so that the Chapter can accommodate the larger number of members on each field trip, increase the membership size to 50 and increase the number of members on the New Class Committee to help accommodate the larger class. Brenda Fest will contact Tammy Thompson at UGRA to see if the venue is available on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday for the 2017 classes. Lisa Flanagan and Brenda Fest will make the suggested changes to the application then email the application to the Board members.

Kathy Ward made a motion to accept 50 members in the 2017 Class and to start to look for a venue to accommodate this number.

Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.

Motion carried

*Background checks-Sandy Leyendecker

The Chapter has 257 active members. 81 members have not given the authorization to have a Background Check and 13 of these members are not active. Sandy Leyendecker will send out a reminder to the remaining 68 members to complete this step. Our Chapter has 24,000 volunteer hours to date compared to 24,000 hours at the end of the 2015.

Director's Reports

Membership-Lisa Flanagan-nothing else to report

Advanced Training-Liz Ross-nothing else to report

Volunteer Projects-Claire Mitchell-nothing else to report

Communications-Bridget Langdale

Bridget sends out two early press releases to newspapers for each Chapter meeting. Please let her know if you do not see the notices in the papers.
New Class- Diana Ambrust (absent)

Resource Development

*Proposed Meeting Dates for 2017-Floyd Trefny

Kathy Ward made a motion to accept the 2017 proposed dates with one exception: the August Board Meeting will be on 21st not August 9th.

Lisa Flanagan seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

*Holiday Party-Diane McMahon, Lisa Flanagan, Rheda Boardman, Brenda fest

Ideas/Comments that did not fit in

Brenda Fest asked the Board if anyone would like to man a table at the Harvest Moon Festival at Muleshoe Farm and Ranch on October 29, 2016.

Announcements

Board Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2016, Riverside Nature Center

Monthly Meeting: October 24, 2016

Review Decisions

*Approved August Board Meeting Minutes

*Approved August Treasurer's Reports

*Approved to increase the 2017 New Class membership to 50 and begin to locate a venue to accommodate this membership

*Approved the 2017 Chapter Meeting Dates with corrections

Adjourn: 1522