

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter
Board Meeting Minutes
Riverside Nature Center
Monday January 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM by President Lisa Flanagan and a quorum was declared.

Members present: Lisa Flanagan, Craig Childs, Cathy Binney, Susan Clark, Reggie Cox, Claire Mitchell, Paula Harley, David Davies, Katy Kappel, Vern Crawford, Brenda Fest.

Members absent: Leslie Hannah, Michelle Haggerty, Roy Walston.

Visitors: Sharon Hixson, Becky Etzler

Operational:

1. It was announced that the May board and chapter meetings will be on Monday May 21, 2018.
2. David moved and Vern seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting as reviewed. The motion passed.
3. Treasurer Cathy Binney and former treasurer Ann Dietert presented the account summary, holding account and two bank statements. Vern clarified the purpose of the holding account which is used mainly by the state for the annual conference. Brenda moved and Reggie seconded to accept the reports and the motion passed.
4. David moved and Reggie seconded to accept the 4th quarter budget reports as presented. The motion passed.
5. The 2018 budget in a new format was reviewed. No vote was necessary as it was already approved in December.
6. Brenda recommended a decrease in the amount the board contributes for the holiday social and an increase to \$20 for members attending in order to stay on budget.
7. A discussion was held regarding fundraising opportunities such as donation jars or raffles. Brenda suggested the possibility of asking for optional dues. Craig requested that we find out what other chapters are doing regarding dues. Vern stated that the membership list would be more accurate if we charge dues.
8. A discussion was held regarding cloud storage and Brenda suggested a possible dropbox account.
9. Vice President Craig Childs presented a list of past and some future meeting speakers including Jim Stanley in February with the topic "Land Management Assistance Program of the Hill Country Master Naturalist" and Richard Heilbrun of TPWD with the topic "Recovering America's Wildlife Act" in March. He shared information on the South Llano State Park AT to include lectures and volunteer projects on April 7 or 14. There may also be volunteer opportunities at the Birding Festival. He passed out a brochure for Spring Birding on Mustang Island and he will check on arranging speakers for AT.

Strategic Initiatives:

1. Sharon Hixson and Becky Etzler requested that a board representative take part in the planning for the fall Master Naturalist plant sale on Oct.6. Reggie Cox volunteered. Brenda added that the board should be more involved in the plant sale as it provides an opportunity for chapter sponsored education. Becky will talk to Jim Stanley to see if he wants to have a separate table from the MN table for his "Ask the Expert" information. Gracie Waggener also has a table for monarch butterfly education.

Directors' Reports:

Membership:

1. Reggie reported that she is working on updates of member information. She stated that the awards were ready for the chapter meeting.
2. Lisa suggested that the pictures for Nov./Dec. be taken together.
3. A discussion was held regarding the starting time of the monthly meeting. A 6:45 time was suggested for awards to give the speaker a full 60 minutes to present. No action was taken.

Advanced Training:

1. Paula reported that there are 39 AT opportunities so far and some possible webinars.
2. We were reminded that we can see all AT on the calendar and on "view agenda".

Volunteer Projects:

1. Claire reported that she sent surveys to 38 project coordinators but only received 17 replies. She explained the role of the project coordinator and will contact those who did not reply. If a project is no longer active it will be deleted.
2. Craig had questions about proper coding for new volunteer projects for Roberts Ranch. In response, Claire explained how new projects are to be coded.

Communications:

1. David stated that the Care Committee needs volunteers.
2. He would like each county to have a contact person who would restock rack cards in their area.
3. The advertising is complete for the new class.

New Class:

1. Lisa commended Leslie (in absentia) for her work with the 2018 class. She also asked for minutes to be sent to the board from class meetings.

Resource Development:

1. Brenda stated that a survey would be passed out to all members at the chapter meeting.
2. The notes from the retreat were reviewed and priorities noted.
3. The 20th anniversary video was discussed.
4. Lisa requested pictures of the board members for the newsletter.
5. Craig suggested that project coordinators keep in touch with their volunteers regarding VMS.

The decisions made at this meeting were reviewed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Clark, Secretary