

Hill Country Master Naturalist Board Meeting Minutes
Riverside Nature Center
Monday, February 26, 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, Paula Harley, David Davies, Katy Kappel, Vern Crawford, Brenda Fest, Leslie Hannah.

Members absent: Claire Mitchell, Michelle Haggerty, Roy Walston.

Visitors: Jim Stanley, Charles Laird

Operational:

1. David moved and Craig seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. Susan will send a draft of the minutes to all board members after each meeting for any changes needed.
2. Vern moved and Reggie seconded to approve the financial reports as submitted. An explanation was given for the good faith donation to the Lions Camp.
3. Craig reported on the upcoming speakers:
 - a. March 26 Richard Heilbrun TPWD on Recovering America's Wildlife Act
 - b. April 23 Jill Boyter San Antonio YMCA on Roberts Ranch, a new TMN project
 - c. May 21 Robert Ditmar Wildlife Veterinarian TPWD on Chronic Wasting Disease
 - d. June 25 Cathy Downs on Monarch Update
 - e. July 23 Michael Masser Aquatic Ecology Extension Specialist on Pond Management
 - f. TBA Monica Morrison Texas Native Cats
4. Craig also reported that Paula will take over the South Llano River State Park/Volunteer Activity. She will work with Scott Richardson to develop AT and volunteer time for the middle school garden and the birding festival.

Directors' Reports:

1. **Membership:** Reggie reported on the awards to be presented at the chapter meeting.
2. **Advanced Training:** Paula reported that we have 74 ATs and reminded us to look at the calendar for all ATs. A discussion was held regarding chapter sponsored ATs such as field trips.
3. **Communications:** David reported that he is working with Claire to recruit volunteers to place brochures in each TMN county. He can still use help with press releases and interviews. Recruitment rack cards have been ordered and will be out by mid-March.
4. **New Class Director:** Leslie reported good progress in the class. There are some agenda date changes and one spot for a speaker still open. A VMS training will be held after a class and will be open to all members with possible mentor involvement. A discussion was held regarding field trips for persons with physical limitations. It was decided that each case would be considered individually.

Strategic Initiatives:

1. Jim Stanley presented some concerns regarding LMAP visits.
 - a. A homeowners' association wanted a bird survey in order to stop adjacent property development.
 - b. Another request for an LMAP was to stop road construction.
 - c. An individual wanted an LMAP before he purchased property.Our standards of conduct were read and discussed. Stronger language in the code was considered as well as adding the code to the LMAP description. It was decided that Michelle would be asked to advise us on this matter.
2. Jim discussed his Soil for Water program in which training would be provided to land owners on managing the land for better species, soil, water, etc. Hill Country Chapter Master Naturalist land owners would be able to do a project on their land to improve it and document their data twice yearly over a period of 5 years. It was suggested that volunteer hours be given for documentation time. Craig moved and Katy seconded to have Jim explore the possibilities for this land condition monitoring project.
3. Questions arose regarding the Small Plot Pollinator project and the amount of hours Kristie has spent setting up the webpage. Vern moved and Katy seconded that all requests for webpages on the chapter website must be approved by the board ahead of time.

Resource Development:

1. The video project was discussed and Lisa will contact Michelle regarding the Ipad video kits. She will also look into the guidelines for what should be included in the video. The possibility of using other video equipment was also discussed. Roy Walston can pick up the Ipad kit in Uvalde and deliver to us.
2. End of Year survey responses were discussed. 6 responses have been received so far. Discussion was held about ways to have children more involved, get more visitors to come to chapter meetings, and workshops that could be held at the plant sale.

Decisions made at this meeting were reviewed.

Craig moved and Cathy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Clark, Secretary