

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter Board Meeting
Riverside Nature Center
November 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Flanagan at 2:40 PM. A quorum was present.

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

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

Guests: Steve Ramirez, 2018 class representative

Operational:

1. Katy moved and David seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The motion passed.
2. Cathy reported that the Treasurer's report reflects our income and expenses through October. The new class went over budget due to the fencing and stakes for the trees and having only 32 paying trainees. A discussion will be held in the future about tuition not covering training class expenses. Brenda brought up the possibility of dues and Lisa suggested raising the price of tuition. Steve suggested just giving out the trees and not the fencing and stakes. Cathy will present the budget at the December meeting and she explained the Holding Account report. Lisa will remind the membership tonight that tomorrow is Giving Tuesday and all donations to our chapter are welcome. The books will be audited after December 31 and the committee will consist of Cathy, Katy, and Craig. David moved and Katy seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. The motion passed.
3. Craig reported on the upcoming speakers:
 - a. January: John Nielson, state climatologist
 - b. March: David Langford, author of Seasons at Selah. Mr. Bamberger will also attend.
 - c. Committed but no date yet: Brent Evans, conservation easements and Jonah Evans, TPWD state mammologist
 - d. Craig thanked Reggie for reserving UGRA for next year's general meetings and training classes.

Strategic Initiatives:

1. The Board Retreat will be held on January 12 at Brenda's house from 10-12 with pot luck.
2. The Apache Tree project is complete and Brenda will report back to Apache on the progress of the tree planting. It was suggested that we make wire cages next year and offer them for sale to trainees.
3. Reggie will present the slate of nominees for next year's officers and accept nominations from the floor at tonight's meeting. Lisa will announce that there are several openings for directors.

Directors' Reports:

1. **Membership:** Reggie reported that we have 289 members actively entering VMS hours.
2. **AT:** Paula reported that there are 311 ATs. She will present AT awards at the holiday/volunteer recognition party.
3. **Volunteer Projects:** Claire reported that there are code changes following an audit.
4. **Communications:** David stated that he would like to be on hand to train his replacement.
5. **New Class:** In Leslie's absence, Lisa read a list of comments provided by Leslie.

Resource Development:

1. Craig reported on the holiday/volunteer recognition party agenda:
 - a. There will be a table at the door with a checkoff list of members who have paid. They will each receive a raffle ticket for a door prize. Lisa will go to Wild Birds Unlimited, Plant Haus, and the Medina Nursery to solicit items for the door prizes and silent auction.
 - b. Only 30 people have signed up and we need 80 to avoid cancelling. Lisa will remind the membership to sign up at tonight's meeting.
 - c. Craig will emcee and give a 10 minute talk on the value of volunteering and will include information about Kip Kiphart.
 - d. A slide show will run during dinner featuring our projects and members.
 - e. The youth entertainment will begin around 1:30 at which time the silent auction will shut down.
 - f. Vern will be Santa!
 - g. Katy is still recruiting silent auction donations and will need 2 long tables.
 - h. Lisa would like to give out a list of questions for members to ask each other as a way of getting to know new people.
2. Lisa suggested a Spring/Fall membership social event and picnic, possibly including an iNaturalist scavenger hunt. Craig suggested using the Roberts Ranch facilities.
3. A discussion was held about how to recruit more members from outlying areas. Lisa suggested having groups go to these locations and make a presentation on the Master Naturalist program and training class before the applications are online. The first focus will be Mason.
4. A discussion was held on how to keep mentors more involved with their mentees. It was suggested that they participate in joint projects and that mentors be given a copy of the class schedule.

The decisions were reviewed and then Susan moved and Katy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Clark, secretary