

Texas Master Naturalist, Hill Country Chapter Board Meeting
Riverside Nature Center
February 25, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Lisa Flanagan at 2:30 PM. A quorum was present.

Members present: Lisa Flanagan, Craig Childs, Cathy Binney (Treasurer), Reggie Cox (Membership), Leslie Hannah (2018 Class Manager), Carla Stang (2019 Class Manager, Brenda Fest (Past President), Paula Harley (Advanced Training), Katy Kappel (Secretary), Catherine Gauldin (Communications), Steve Ramirez (2019 Class Rep), Vern Crawford (State Rep).

Members absent: Tom Burke (Volunteer Projects), Michelle Haggerty, Roy Walston.

Guests: None

Operational:

1. The minutes of the Dec. 10, 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Reggie Cox, seconded by Vern Crawford.
2. Cathy pointed out that an audit of the books for 2018 was completed January 15, 2019 by Katy and Craig. The 2018 balance sheet shows a refund of \$504 from UGRA due to our contract to maintain their garden. The 2019 budget is based on a training class of 35 and has been amended to add an additional category for unrestricted income. Class textbooks for 2019 have already been purchased. Brenda moved and Craig seconded a motion to accept the budget and Treasurer's report as submitted. The motion passed.
3. Craig reported that Dr. Nielsen-Gammon will speak on climate at today's meeting. Brent Evans will speak in February on Conservation Easements, and David Langford will come in March for a talk and book signing of "Seasons of Selah".

Strategic Initiatives:

The Board Retreat Priorities and Challenges for 2019 were discussed. There are four main areas (Thanks, Carla) and with Board leadership, help on each will be recruited from the membership.

1. Diversify our income sources (Katy, Board Champion)
 - a. Seek new avenues of revenue to avoid membership dues
 - b. Explore other speaker venues and charge admission. Reggie will check with UGRA re room rental, Lisa and Craig will explore licensing requirements for a showing of "Green Fire".
 - c. Lisa will reactivate "donate" portal on the website for use by members
 - d. Consider recognition of various levels of donors (i.e. "Patron")
2. Full enrollment (35-40 students) in the 2019 TMN training class (Catherine, Board Champion)
 - a. Target recruitment in counties with low class participation
 - b. Increase class diversity in age, race, demographics
 - c. Expand our outreach to places with high foot traffic (e.g. coffee shops, nature centers, Farmer's Market, etc.)
 - d. Hold Chapter open houses in outlying counties
3. Improve quality and quantity of documentation in VMS to support expanded uses of accurate data (e.g. grants, volunteer recognition, project recruitment, etc.)
 - a. Provide additional targeted training
 - b. Run ad hoc reports for general and specific local auditing purposes
 - c. Run ad hoc reports by project, number of volunteers, and number of hours (assess project viability, need for recruitment, future project planning, etc.) Brenda will work with Kristie to get these reports.
 - d. Promote project coordinator communication to their team re: appropriate VMS codes and activity descriptions
4. Increase attendance at the annual volunteer recognition event (historically held in December). Reggie will assist Craig and Lisa on this.
 - a. Review the format and location for the volunteer recognition event. Carla will check with the Volunteer Fire Department in Hunt
 - b. Survey general group re: preferences, suggestions, reasons for decline. Reggie has developed a survey to distribute next month.
 - c. Coordinate more events for members, such as: iNaturalist Scavenger Hunt, picnic, etc.

Directors' Reports:

1. **Membership:** No new report
2. **AT:** No new report
3. **Volunteer Projects:** Tom was not present
4. **Communications:** Catherine as reviewed rack cards and will order new ones for 2019 recruiting.
5. **New Class:** Carla reported on the first committee meeting. Lisa will incorporate a discussion of appropriate public presentation as a Texas Master Naturalist into her introduction to the new class and Craig will do an AT on advocacy roles.

Resource Development:

1. There was a discussion of a request for a pollinator garden in Uvalde, where there is no Master Naturalist chapter. We do have projects that are not in our chapter area.
2. Mentor involvement was also discussed. There was a suggestion that there be a "midterm" meeting with mentors to check on how things are going and for peer support.

The decisions were reviewed, and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Kappel, secretary