

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
Teleconference
March 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Roberts at 2:35 p.m.

Members present were: Elsa Roberts, Katy Kappel, Nancy Scoggins, Jeralyn Hathorn, Carla Stang, Vern Crawford, Sheryl Pender, Catherine Gauldin, Tom Burke, Frank Garcia, and Lisa Flanagan. Members absent were: Deb Youngblood, Michelle Haggerty, and Roy Walston.

Operational:

1. The meeting began with a discussion relating to the chapter's position on continuing volunteer work during COVID-19 restrictions. Elsa and Michelle had been in contact with each other and it was Michelle's position that people needed to make their own decisions while adhering to state and local group size and distancing restrictions. Further discussion ensued amongst the board members and it was decided that Elsa would send out an email to the membership encouraging members to use their best judgement, stay within mandates, and that the organization could not be held liable for their decisions to participate in volunteer activities during this time. Elsa would also attach the email from Michelle to back up the board's decision.
2. The original January minutes had misstated that "applications" had been received for the 2020 class when in fact they were "prospect forms". The minutes were revised and approved on a motion by Lisa, seconded by Vern and the motion carried.
3. The minutes for the February 24, 2020 board meeting were approved on a motion by Nancy and seconded by Vern. The motion carried.
4. Vice President Katy Kappel reported that all future scheduled events were up in the air.
5. Treasurer Nancy Scoggins presented the financial reports. A motion to approve was made by Katy and seconded by Carla. The general liability insurance premium in the amount of \$736 is due by April 15, 2020. She did not have any information on the board of director's insurance but would investigate and make appropriate arrangements to get it paid. Vern informed the board that a vote to pay items in the approved budget would not require a vote. On another note, Nancy mentioned that the appropriate changes to the holding account had not been made but she would be added to the signature card once Michelle and Kathy initiated the process.

Director's Reports:

1. Membership Director Carla Stang informed the board that she had received a total of 28 prospect forms for the 2020 class. Frank asked for clarification as to how the pins are distributed. Carla made him aware that the pins are handed out at the chapter meetings and if someone does not attend the meeting, she does what she can to get them to the person including delivery to an event if she is aware that they will be there.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood was not present because she was sewing masks that were in short supply for health care professionals. She did provide a report indicating that she's logged 157 AT events this year. Katy wanted to formally thank Deb for her hard work on obtaining the additional AT webinars.
3. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin reported that rack card distribution has halted due to COVID-19 restrictions. The board brainstormed ideas on alternate ways to distribute the rack cards, including doing an email blast with an appropriate attachment for members to forward to anyone they think might be interested, leaving cards at RNC in spite of the fact they are closed because they still receive some traffic, and possibly sending a few to each person who submitted a prospect form for them to pass along to friends/family who they think might be interested.
4. Project Director Tom Burke mentioned that additional birding events have been cancelled. Katy informed the board that she got two Master Naturalist volunteers for the Zion garden from the project email that Tom sent out.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender provided reports on the 2020 Class Committee meeting and the Roundtable Discussions. She also finalized the 2020 Class Dates, Field Trips, ATs, and Locations. She brought attention to the fact that time has been allotted in class #2 for board members to give input on core administrative topics to make new class members more aware of who the board members are. She asked that we give thought as to how that could be best utilized. She has selected Memorial Presbyterian Church fellowship hall in Fredericksburg as the location for the 9/16/2020 class. A motion to approve the rental/setup fee of \$325 was made by Sheryl, seconded by Vern and the motion carried. Nancy will send a check to them to secure the space.

Resource Development:

1. Katy has not received a response to our Letter of Intent from the Cailloux Foundation regarding the grant request, but emphasized that the laptops would need to be upgraded even if the grant doesn't come through.
2. Street banners are on hold until further notice.
3. Community outreach and events are on hold although Carla is still working to secure table space at various future events. Some are already full and others were deemed inappropriate. Carla ordered the sandwich board and banner that had previously been approved. They are not dated so they can be used for years to come.

4. Current rules state that only 4 of the 8 required AT hours can be fulfilled using webinars. Michelle received an email asking if the number of hours could be increased due to COVID-19 restrictions. The board expressed individual feelings regarding the matter and it was decided to temporarily table the discussion until more facts are known as to how long the restrictions will be in place.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa, seconded by Nancy, and the meeting adjourned at 3:45. The next board meeting will be April 27, 2020. COVID-19 restrictions in place closer to that time will determine location.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeralyn Hathorn
Secretary