

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
Teleconference
April 27, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Roberts at 2:30 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, Deb Youngblood, and Lisa Flanagan. Members absent were: Michelle Haggerty and Roy Walston.

Operational:

1. The minutes for the March 23, 2020 board meeting were approved on a motion by Jeralyn and seconded by Lisa. The motion carried.
2. Treasurer Nancy Scoggins presented the financial reports. A motion to approve was made by Katy and seconded by Carla. Nancy reported that the \$300 annual membership fee has been paid to Riverside Nature Center and that the board member insurance would be paid in May.
3. Vice President Katy Kappel presented her report and informed the board that the Letter of Intent to the Cailloux Foundation was denied and that there have been no changes to the speaker schedule.

Director's Reports:

1. Membership Director Carla Stang informed the board that she and Deb had posted to Next Door but hadn't received any responses as of yet. Nancy asked how the YTD applicants compared to last year and Lisa indicated that it was lagging due to COVID-19 and mentioned that we can extend the deadline if needed. Vern expressed concern that the class may have to be cancelled. Sheryl calculated that we need 40 class members to meet the current class expenses, and that it will cost even more if we have to offer classes online.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood discussed her preference for using WebX for webinars and suggested carefully choosing presenters. She noted that there is no limitation as to how many of the 8 hours for certification can be done by webinar. She cautioned that some archived webinars may be out of date and suggested limiting them to a year old and those that included a group discussion at the end. The board discussed the options regarding webinars and Sheryl asked Deb if she needed help making decisions regarding their approval. Vern encouraged Deb to use her power and be as lenient as possible in order to move forward.
3. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin called on the membership to forward links and information on the TMN program to get the word out to prospective applicants.
4. Project Director Tom Burke had nothing to report.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender reported that the class curriculum contains 63.25 class hours and 13 hours of field trips. All speakers are in place with no changes. If we only have 30 students the expenses will exceed the income by about \$1000. The possibility of eliminating the cages for the Apache Tree program in order to reduce expenses was discussed. We're moving forward cautiously with the possibility of changes forthcoming.

Resource Development:

1. In light of the denial from the Cailloux Foundation Katy Kappel made a motion to upgrade the laptop to Windows 10 and add 2 GB RAM. Deb Youngblood suggested taking the capability of the laptop into account when determining how much RAM to add. Katy invited her to be a part of the team and Deb accepted. A motion to spend up to \$500 to upgrade to Windows 10, add additional RAM and Office 2019 was made by Lisa Flanagan and seconded by Frank Garcia.
2. Nancy suggested adding the costs for the extra rack cards, street banner, and a-frame sign as a recurring expense line item to the budget.
3. Katy will check with Dr. at Schreiner about doing a webinar. Elsa reminded her that all Chapter Zoom accounts are closed due to hacking and each chapter has to choose their own meeting format if they want to do a webinar. Elsa issued a call to action regarding recommendations and solutions for how we could go forward as a chapter if we do still have strict mandates in place in the future.
4. Sheryl and Elsa encouraged board members to participate in the 2020 PowerPoint. Elsa asked that all board members wear their name tags to all meetings.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa, seconded by Frank, and the meeting adjourned at 4:03. The next board meeting will be May 18, 2020 by teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeralyn Hathorn
Secretary