

TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference

May 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Roberts at 2:33 p.m.

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

Operational:

1. The minutes for the April 27, 2020 board meeting were approved on a motion by Catherine and seconded by Katy. The motion carried.
2. Treasurer Nancy Scoggins presented the financial reports. A motion to approve was made by Frank and seconded by Catherine. Nancy reported that the Exxon Mobile grant money was received and it was split with Old Tunnel and Love Creek. She was going to check with Sarah Hilburn with regards to the procedure for sending thank you letters.
3. Vice President Katy Kappel presented her report and informed the board that the UGRA auditorium is now available for Chapter meetings but the number of attendees will need to be limited.

Director's Reports:

1. Membership Director Carla Stang informed the board that she intends to use the UGRA auditorium for the mentor meetings since it is available.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood let the board know that she is very pleased with webinar availability and quality of speakers. She hopes they will continue through June. She encouraged the board to communicate with anyone they felt would be a good prospective speaker and suggest that they do a webinar. Deb was under the impression that all ATs, including curriculum ATs, were available to all general members, except Texistopia in September and field trips. This was verified to be so by Carla and the AT report will be corrected during the May meeting as per Elsa.
3. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin provided her report and asked Carla if she had anything on the schedule and if she thought there would be any table opportunities in the near future. Home Depot, Tractor Supply, Gibson's, etc. were suggested and Carla was going to check into the possibility and requirements. Katy suggested the River Clean Up in July, providing the deadline is extended. The board agreed that class members who signed up would receive a refund should they not be able to take the class. Carla will add a disclaimer to the web site.
4. Project Director Tom Burke had nothing to report.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender reported that she has been in communication with Kristie regarding re-formatting the web page. She also informed the board that Charlie Flatten will not be able to speak and she is actively looking for a replacement Hydrology speaker. Discussion ensued regarding the fate of the new class due to possible COVID restrictions. Sheryl's husband provided a breakdown of variable costs versus fixed costs. Katy was of the opinion that new members are the life blood of the chapter and the consequences of not having a new class are far reaching. She thinks we should accept a loss of at least \$600 at the 25-student mark. Vern agreed with Katy, Nancy was on the fence as to whether we should have a small class or no class, Frank felt we should have a class regardless of size, and Elsa agree that we should have a class no matter what, and she has some fundraising ideas. Elsa suggested waiting to decide until the next board meeting. It was agreed that Catherine would send out a press release next month extending the deadline. Carla will also add the deadline extension information to the statement regarding the refund. It was also determined that the UGRA paperwork to use the facilities needed to be submitted. Elsa asked Katy to go by and talk to Tammy. RNC was to determine when they would reopen today. Katy asked if

people will still be asked to bring in food for the class. Elsa said it would have to be decided later, as it's too soon to determine.

Resource Development:

1. Elm Fork will be offering their chapter meeting on Zoom on May 21, 2020, as an AT. The topic will be "The Ecology of the Horned Lizard" and you will have to register to view it. Elsa encouraged the board to watch it and see how it works out.
2. The board discussed options such as RSVPs for the chapter meetings since the number of attendees will be limited. Carla indicated that she is fine with presenting the pins at the chapter meetings. As an option, Google has a free meeting app for up to 100 people, although Katy feels that since ATs have been online, she prefers the chapter meetings to be in person. Elsa will contact Elm Fork to see how they will conduct the meeting outside of the speaker. Deb agreed that the ability to see each other has value, especially regarding receiving pins in person versus mailing them. Elsa discussed polling the membership for their preference. Vern suggested using Survey Monkey. Katy agreed to send out a survey and will make note for members to fill out the state survey.
3. Roy Walston was the original chapter advisor and has retired. Several people suggested asking Craig Hensley to be the new chapter advisor. The board agreed and Elsa requested that the chapter requirements be reviewed prior to the next meeting.
4. Elsa discussed the need for the chapter by-laws to reflect the language used in CMOP. She asked that the board members compare the two sets of by-laws to make sure they are consistent since new members typically look at the chapter information rather than the state's information. Vern was of the opinion that it wasn't necessary because there will always be something that needs to be explained. Sheryl assured the board that the topic would be thoroughly addressed later in the curriculum.

A motion to adjourn was made by Frank, seconded by Sheryl and the meeting adjourned at 4:01. The next board meeting will be June 22, 2020 possibly by teleconference again.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeralyn Hathorn

Secretary