HILL COUNTRY MASTER NATUALIST BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Teleconference  
July 27, 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, Frank Garcia, Tom Burke, Lisa Flanagan, Deb Youngblood and guest Kim Ort, the new webmaster. Catherine Gauldin was out of town.

**Operational:**

1. The minutes for the June 22, 2020 board meeting were approved on a motion by Lisa and seconded by Frank. The motion carried.
2. Treasurer Nancy Scoggins presented the financial reports and informed the board that the refunds sent to previous prospective students will show up on the books in August. A motion to approve was made by Katy and seconded by Vern.
3. Vice President Katy Kappel presented her report which included information pertaining to the remaining speakers that were scheduled and the possibility of them presenting a webinar. Deb confirmed that Master Naturalists are able to re-certify for 2020 with 8 hrs. of webinars per info received at the annual meeting and COVID guidance regulations. Deb has also offered to train the New Class Committee members on webinars. Carla asked if an email could be sent out as an announcement. Lisa also requested that if anyone has any ideas regarding the party in December to let her know.

**Director's Reports:**

1. Membership Director Carla Stang provided her report and said she continues to facilitate transfers and communicate with students. She went over her plans on how to enrich the Interim Mentor Program experience as outlined in her report. Deb asked Carla to distinguish closed events for the calendar. Carla plans to approach Michelle Haggerty regarding credit for prospective student volunteer and AT hours. Her goal is to immerse prospects in chapter activities in order to keep them engaged.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood presented her report and mentioned that she was impressed by the number of AT hours that are available. She found a volunteer, Diane, who will work 5 hours a week to help log in AT hours, which will free Deb up to do WebEx training. Tom complimented Deb on the fluidity of the webinars he had recently attended.
3. Project Director Tom Burke provided a narrative on the new iNaturalist project and information regarding two established prairie dog colonies. He indicated that there was more to come and info would be going out to the membership this week.
4. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin was out of town.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender presented her report. AgriLife is beginning to standardize core training on the web page. Elsa and Sheryl have been attending monthly meetings and there is a definite shift in how things are evolving and it is time to prepare for the changing times and cull our member's digital and virtual talents. Sheryl stated that the Hill Country chapter's core topics are more inclusive than the state requires and she doesn't see that changing.

**Resource Development:**

1. Storage for Training Materials - Lisa will go to Reggie's to see what needs to be archived. Carla, Sheryl and Elsa also have items to be stored. A motion was made by Vern to obtain a climate controlled storage unit on a month to month basis as a central storage location. Frank seconded the motion and the motion carried.
2. The board agreed to gift the printer to Reggie.
3. IT Director Position - Sheryl feels we should define the position's responsibilities prior to asking someone to fill the position. Carla suggested checking with other chapters as to how they structure the position.
4. Honorarium for Kristie Denbow - Elsa polled the board for ideas. A complimentary 2 night stay at the Lodges at Lost Maples was offered by Jeralyn.
5. Update of CMOP and COH - Everything to be funneled through Lisa by August 15th.
6. Possible Chapter Advisor - tabled until next meeting
7. Possible Update of UGRA Contract - tabled until January 2021

Kim Ort addressed the board and informed them that as of the previous Monday she had begun the process of importing all web page content to the new template. She advised the board that what she can do with the new template is very limited. There can be no changes to the header or footer, but she can change the white space. She cannot change the fonts. Currently there are a lot of images that don't fit and they'll need to be resized accordingly. Nancy inquired about setting up a link to sell merchandise and Kim said she would ask about setting up an ecommerce platform. Kim will continue to work on fixing the links that are no longer working and Carla requested that membership questions go to her email. The board thanked Kim for taking time to update them on the status of the changeover.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lisa, seconded by Vern and the meeting adjourned at 4:20. The next board meeting will be August 24, 2020 by WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeralyn Hathorn  
Secretary