HILL COUNTRY MASTER NATUALIST BOARD MEETING MINUTES
via Webex
August 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Roberts at 2:31 p.m.

Members present were: Elsa Roberts, Katy Kappel, Jeralyn Hathorn, Carla Stang, Vern Crawford, Sheryl Pender, Frank Garcia, Tom Burke, Lisa Flanagan, Deb Youngblood and Catherine Gauldin. Nancy Scoggins was not present.

**Operational:**

1. The minutes for the emergency board meeting called on July 8, 2020 board were approved on a motion by Tom and seconded by Carla. The motion carried.
2. The minutes for the July 27, 2020 monthly board meeting were approved on a motion by Lisa and seconded by Frank.
3. Financial reports prepared by Nancy Scoggins were approved on a motion by Carla and seconded by Vern.
4. Vice President Katy Kappel presented her report which included a list of speakers for the chapter meetings for the rest of 2020. Deb asked Carla if she could run the October meeting in her absence. The first live Webex chapter meeting is scheduled for 9/21/2020. Elsa informed the board that it would be a “ride along” without everyone’s camera or mic on, and held like any other meeting. Vern brought to the board’s attention the fact that the calendar still says to go to UGRA for the board meetings and reminded us that board meetings are open meetings. Elsa agreed to send a general email polling interest and sending an invitation to the board meeting. A brief discussion pertaining to ideas for the Appreciation Dinner in which Katy suggested having it somewhere outdoors and having a food truck, and Vern suggested a Zoom meeting.

**Director's Reports:**

1. Membership Director Carla Stang provided her report and said she is still receiving inquiries and continues to track hours and awards and will be setting dates for pin distributions. Sheryl asked if the 31 prospects will formally be the class next year, or if we are still accepting applications. Carla said that the 31 prospects will have first choice, but depending upon space available in classroom venue, class size could go up to 40 students, therefore we would open the application process up to fill seats.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood sent a link to her report in Google documents but next time she’ll send a pdf. She feels that we could hit 500 ATs by the end of the year. Furthermore, she feels that there will be more and more webinars and they provide easy access to info from all over.
3. Project Director Tom Burke had no report.
4. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin had no report, but said that she has been preparing information to post about the Chapter on the web site. She interviewed Sheryl last month and posted her comments on Youtube. She took over the chapter Facebook page and will send a press release early September regarding the postponed 2020 class.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender presented her report passing along information gleamed from New Class Training meetings. When asked if she thought it was still possible to have a 2020 class, Sheryl indicated that she felt it was still possible but there are many questions that remain unanswered.
6. Lisa updated the board on the COP & CMOP recommendations. She had 2 people respond that they wanted to do all 8 AT hours online. She also said that when the board is voting on issues outside of the regular board meeting all members must weigh in in order for the vote to count, otherwise we could lose our 501C3 status. Sheryl was seeking clarification on a few items pertaining to her responsibilities and provided feedback that Lisa felt was pertinent and should be sent in.

**Resource Development:**

1. After brief discussion and clarification regarding a Thank You gift for Kristie it was decided to purchase a stay at The Lodges at Lost Maples and a gift basket along with a gift certificate from the Lost Maples Winery. Elsa will send out an appeal for contributions to past and present board members by email.
2. Update on Transitioning Back – Maximum number of people 50, with social distancing rules in play. UGRA is still not an option at this time.
3. Although we still have to post nominations and have a membership vote on board members, all current members have agreed to stay. The vote will be in November.
4. An Ad Hoc Committee on Inclusion and Diversity will need to be formed at some point. Elsa is waiting on more info and direction.
5. Elsa informed the board that the annual review will be moved from the end of the year to the beginning of the year so we will be doing the review again the first of next year.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded by numerous people (it became difficult to determine who was actually the first and second person but the decision was unanimous!) and the meeting adjourned at 4:22. The next board meeting will be September 28, 2020 by WebEx.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeralyn Hathorn
Secretary