HILL COUNTRY MASTER NATUALIST BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
via Webex  
September 28, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Elsa Roberts at 2:39 p.m.

Members present were: Elsa Roberts, Katy Kappel, Jeralyn Hathorn, Nancy Scoggins, Carla Stang, Vern Crawford, Sheryl Pender, Frank Garcia, Tom Burke, Deb Youngblood and Catherine Gauldin. Guests present were Lenore Langsdorf (newsletter issues), Robert Shock and Constance Weaver (Apache Tree program representatives).

**Operational:**

1. The minutes for the August 24, 2020 monthly board meeting were approved on a motion by Frank and seconded by Carla.
2. Financial reports prepared by Nancy Scoggins were approved on a motion by Carla and seconded by Frank.
3. Vice President Katy Kappel presented her report and informed the board that the speaker lined up for the September chapter meeting cancelled due to health reasons, although she may have a backup. Katy also provided an update on future speakers.

**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. She has had three pin distribution events so far. She presented the results from a Survey Monkey online survey regarding the Interim Mentor Program and noted that participants are asking for more clarity in the description of the hikes.
2. AT Director Deb Youngblood reported that so far 531 AT events have been scheduled for 2020.
3. Project Director Tom Burke had no report.
4. Communications Director Catherine Gauldin reported on her opportunity to reach over 11,000 subscribers by posting three videos onto the Facebook page in advance of the feature on the TMN social media sites. She said that people are interested in hearing from the directors on how we’re coping while we can’t meet in person. Elsa asked Catherine to see if she had a video to submit for the annual meeting.
5. Class Director Sheryl Pender provided her report on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis but couldn’t go over the data with the board due to microphone issues. Deb gave her thoughts on the results and asked Sheryl what we could do as a board to show our support for the committee.

**Resource Development:**

1. With regards to the gift for Kristie Denbow, discussion took place as to whether the presentation of the gift should be done in person or some other means. Elsa will contact Kristie to see what is most convenient for her.
2. Elsa reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Inclusion and Diversity has been added to the board retreat agenda. She had recently had an opportunity to hear some excellent speakers, two of which she was really impressed with and intends on having them come speak to the board.
3. New web site training for web masters has been postponed and everything is on hold due to Agri-life reorganization.
4. Deb has been functioning as IT Director in addition to Advanced Training Director and she is overwhelmed. It is time to recruit someone to fill the IT position. A plea to fill the position will be sent out to the membership.
5. WebEx meeting pros and cons were discussed. Elsa expressed concern that some people were being excluded for various reasons and suggested purchasing a camera on Amazon in order to stream live onto the Facebook page. Vern said that Zoom will automatically do that and he agreed that his account could be used for next month’s meeting to try it out. Nancy was going to look into the cost associated with obtaining a Zoom account for the chapter. Else felt that WebEx would be sufficient for the chapter meeting since no one would be using their mic or camera. Carla felt that a better product would equate to higher attendance and discussed having in person meetings in conjunction with virtual meetings.

**Announcements**

1. 80 trees will be delivered on October 20, 2020 through the Apache Tree Grant and picked up by recipients on October 21, 2020 at the Youth Event Center in Kerrville. Elsa personally put down the deposit for the venue. Frank made a motion to reimburse Elsa, Deb seconded it and the motion carried. More caging materials are needed and an email request is going to be sent out. Because of COVID retailer’s budgets have been reduced and it’s been more difficult to get donations. Katy mentioned using Speaker money if needed since we have not had to use it for Speakers at the Chapter meetings. According to Robert Shock Tractor Supply will release “bent rolls” and expects them to gift another one. Carla will check with suppliers in Ingram. The committee will cut the wire since we are unable to have a cutting party. They’ll include literature on how to plant the tree and Pat Lucas will take pictures as the trees are handed out. Trainees will get first pick, then mentors and possibly board members if there are any left.
2. Vern sent the link for next month’s Zoom meeting and Carla agreed to co-host.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vern and seconded by Frank and the meeting adjourned at 4:30. The next board meeting will be October 26, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeralyn Hathorn  
Secretary