

July 25, 2022 Minutes for Meeting of Board of Hill Country Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists

Place: Riverside Nature Center & Zoom

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Present In Person: Carla Stang, Frank Garcia, Ron Scoggins, Dot Maginot, Jane Jamison, David Matthews

Present on Zoom: Alice King

Not Present (all w/prior notice): Tom Burke, Vern Crawford, Diane Gierisch

Carla called the meeting to order at 2:30. Carla introduced Jane Jamison (taking over as class representative given Ramon Baez' resignation) and David Matthews (first in person meeting for David). Carla reviewed the Board process for sharing information via the "share" feature of One Drive.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Carla reviewed the process for publishing and archiving minutes for Jane and David. Carla explained the reason for the note in each month's Minutes regarding availability of Treasurer Reports.

On motion by Ron, seconded by Frank, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the June 27, 2022 meeting.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER REPORTS:

Note to Chapter membership – financial reports available to active members in good standing on request. If you would like to see financial reports, please send an email to treasurer@hillcountrytmn.org.

Treasurer – Ron Scoggins

1. Ron reviewed the checking register for June. There was a short discussion of the designated funds concept.
2. To preserve meeting time for a discussion of class financial planning Ron did not review other Chapter financial reports, but referred the Board to the documents on One Drive.
3. On motion by Frank, seconded by David the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's report for July.

REPORTS:

Vice President – Frank Garcia

1. Frank reviewed in-person and remote attendance numbers for the June Chapter meeting. Carla explained to Jane and David the reasons for capturing the remote attendance numbers (Zoom attendee limits under current subscription).
2. Frank reported on his work to recruit speakers for the Chapter meetings. Frank explained that he planned to reach out to AgriLife for speakers for upcoming Chapter meetings.
3. There was a discussion of the annual volunteer appreciation lunch, Dec 17, 2022, and the decision to hold the event at Camp Capers, the date, and an email approval vote was done prior to the board meeting (majority in favor).

Membership – Dot Maginot

1. Dot reported on new and renewing certifications.
2. Dot reported that the membership outreach at the Guadalupe River cleanup was a bit slow due to table location and timing, but that she had talked to 5 or 6 people.

3. Dot reported that the prospective new class list was at 83-84 members.
4. There was a discussion of a member who had achieved the 10,000 hour award and the plan to recognize the member at the annual volunteer appreciation event, assuming we have the Presidential certificate and pin at that time.

Advanced Training – by Carla in Diane’s absence

1. Carla reviewed the AT report; Carla described the role of the Membership Director in tracking attendance; there was a discussion of the quality of the online portion of the June Chapter meeting; Carla asked that remote board attendees please give live feedback during the presentation re: quality issues because we don’t always hear from the zoom participants that there was a problem until after the meeting is over.

New Class – David Matthews

1. David reviewed the discussions with Schreiner University re: the Hybrid Program, including: (i) funding, (ii) the need to condense course to 40 hours from 60 (given that Schreiner can support 40 hours not 60), and (iii) the opportunity for beneficial cross-pollination between younger University students and more mature members.
2. Carla explained the plan to hold a traditional class in the Fall of 2023 with more “lab” components and less sitting time. David described how topics that had been covered in previous classes via classroom presentations could be covered via an investigation lab format. David, Cara and Carla will meet with Michelle Haggerty this fall to review the schedule and outline for plans for the 2023 course since the methodology is different than previous classes. The earliest Schreiner Hybrid course would be in the Spring of 2024.
3. There was a discussion of whether the Chapter should continue to hold traditional classes in addition to the Schreiner Hybrid program. Pro’s for holding two classes (traditional and Schreiner Hybrid) included ease of make ups; cons included the level of volunteer commitment required.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. There was a discussion of the annual volunteer appreciation event, including whether the Chapter should pay for members’ meals or they should pay for their own, and whether to hold a silent auction. Carla asked for volunteers to participate in a planning committee of 10 – 12 people.
2. Dot informed the board of the date for the fall plant sale: Oct 8, 2022. She will announce this at the chapter meeting and send an email to members about it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Alice King, with modifications by Carla Stang.