

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER**

Meeting Location: Riverside Nature Center

Time: 2:02 p.m.

Attending in Person: Kim Ort, Carla Stang, Ron Scoggins, Patti Guin, Dot Maginot, Vern Crawford, Deb Youngblood, and David Drake

Absent: Jeff Schwarz, Mark Hults, Jane Jamison, and David Matthews

Also in Attendance: Lisa Marler

In the absence of President Jeff Schwarz, Vice-President Kim Ort called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Patti Guin

Secretary Patti Guin submitted the minutes from the August 28, 2023 Board meeting. On motion of Dot Maginot, seconded by Deb Youngblood, the minutes were unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer – Ron Scoggins

Ron Scoggins reported that total income for the month of August was \$798.00 and total expenditures were \$963.96. He then gave an itemized review of the general checking account and reported that our current bank balance was \$23,612.83. Vern Crawford made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Patti Guin seconded the motion, and the report was unanimously approved.

Vice President – Kim Ort

Kim reported that all speakers have been lined up, and the only other matter she had to report was in connection with the End of Year Party, which she stated would be covered during the New Business portion of the meeting.

Past President – Carla Stang

Carla stated she had nothing to report other than what she had submitted in her written report which indicated she would be sending out the officer and director sections of the Chapter Operating Handbook to the respective Board members for their review, and once she has received all input from the Board, the revised document will be provided to the general membership prior to the November Chapter meeting, and then voted on at the November Chapter meeting.

New Class Committee – Jane Jamison & David Matthews

No oral or written report was submitted.

At this point in the meeting, Vern Crawford commented on the experience he and his wife had after participating in a New Class zoom session. He stated that in their opinion there was a lot of good they saw in the zoom sessions. He particularly mentioned the convenience of being able to experience the lecture and the slide show on his computer screen rather than in an auditorium or classroom where you might be

seated in a location that would be more difficult to see the screen and hear the speaker. He thought it was a very positive move integrating more zoom sessions into the class curriculum.

Membership – Dot Maginot

Dot reported that we have 50 people who have indicated they are interested in attending the next TMN class, and we currently have 206 active members in the Membership Directory. The remaining membership statistics, including recertification and milestone stats, can be found in her written report located in the Board of Director's folder located on OneDrive.

Communications – Mark Hults

Mark was absent from the meeting and unable to give an oral report; however, his written report was submitted and can be found in the Board of Director's folder located on OneDrive.

Volunteer Service Projects – David Drake

David indicated that he would like the Board to vote on the criteria proposal involving volunteer service hours outside of our 10-county area. David pointed out the added language outlined in red in Section (2) of the criteria which indicates that a Volunteer Service Projects Committee would evaluate the projects that were submitted for approval. David stated the committee would be comprised of himself and two other project leaders/members of his choosing. Ron Scoggins then made a motion that the volunteer service proposal outside of our 10-county area be approved. Vern Crawford seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Frank Garcia asked if he might report on the current status of the Kerrville-Schreiner Park project. He indicated that relations between the volunteers at the pollinator garden and the City of Kerrville had improved. He also stated that the City had recently provided them with a dumpster and a bench. He further reported that Ginny DeWolf has taken Larry Eskridge's place as project leader. Patti Guin had a question regarding where the proceeds of the admission price the City of Kerrville charges to get into the Kerrville-Schreiner Park go. She was curious as to whether all of the admission proceeds go to the City of Kerrville or does some of it go to the Schreiner Foundation (a private entity). No one on the Board knew the answer, but Kim Ort said she would check into that and let us know.

Advanced Training – Deb Youngblood

Deb Youngblood submitted her written report which indicated that through the month of September there have been a total of 406 AT events totaling 895.75 hours. The report also indicated that through the month of December, the total number of available AT events is 456 comprising 997.25 hours. She stated in her report that we would probably end the year with over 1,000 hours of available advanced training and nearly 450 advanced training opportunities.

At this time, Kim asked Deb and the Board their opinion on two hikes she had planned for the month of October. She was concerned about how she would go about getting advanced training for the hikes since one was extremely strenuous in nature and would be limited to only participants who were physically fit and both hikes would be limited to only 15 participants. After a brief discussion, Deb instructed her to be very specific in her descriptions of both hikes when applying for advanced training credit and gave Kim examples of what to include.

Chapter State Representative – Vern Crawford

Vern announced that he would not be attending the State meeting this year, and that it would be the first time in approximately 12 years that he has not been able to attend. In response to an inquiry from the

Board, Vern indicated that about half of the Chapters have a State Board Representative and the other half do not. He stated that in years past, all State Representatives attending the State meeting would meet for breakfast. He stated occasionally there would be issues that they needed to discuss, but most of the time it was a social gathering.

New Business

End of Year Party: Kim reported that she drove to Fredericksburg to check out the AgriLife Building and described the room set up for the party. She announced that the menu would be international appetizers of spring rolls, egg rolls, tamales, chips, queso, salsa, and a charcuterie board. She also announced that she was trying to put together a pie contest with awards being presented to the winners, and the pies then be served as dessert for the party participants. Dot Maginot confirmed that she would put together a picture collage to be shown at the party. Carla Stang and Patti Guin volunteered to help Kim with set up and clean up.

Speaker's Bureau: It was reported that Mark Hults was working on this project and had already created a web page, a list of proposed speakers, and a speaker request form. Carla Stang indicated that since this was new, it needed to be under the leadership of one of our officers or directors. Deb Youngblood suggested that it probably should be under the leadership of the Volunteer Projects Director. David Drake stated that he would ask Mark Hults what he has in mind in connection with who would be overseeing this project.

Great Texas Wildlife Trails: Lisa Marler, Project Coordinator for Great Texas Wildlife Trails, reported to the Board that she planned to provide two different virtual training sessions for volunteers of the GTWT project. She indicated that each session would be about an hour long, with one session describing the project and what the volunteers would be doing, and the other session would be training the volunteers on how to input data. Lisa said she needed guidance on how to obtain AT and/or volunteer credit for people attending these virtual sessions. AT Director Deb Youngblood instructed Lisa to go to our Chapter website and fill out the form for AT credit. Deb further indicated that based on Lisa's verbal description of the two sessions, the first session describing the project, etc. would probably be approved for advanced training; however, the second session dealing with the actual input of data by confirmed volunteers would be something where participants could get volunteer hours but not advanced training credit. Lisa said she would complete the forms and send copies to both Deb and David Drake for review.

Chapter Meeting Agenda: Kim announced that Lisa Flanagan planned to speak at the Chapter Meeting in connection with soliciting volunteers to help at Medina Gardens at a time of great need; however, they would not be able to claim volunteer hours. Patti Guin mentioned that even though this charitable project could not be approved for volunteer credit, she had sent an email to Mary Frushour with a plan on how participants could receive one-hour AT credit. The plan involved Ismael conducting a one-hour plant identification and planting/watering tips tour of the gardens that volunteers would be working in following the AT session. Patti indicated she had run the plan by Deb Youngblood, who stated that it could be approved for AT credit, if Ishmael would agree to conduct the tour. Patti indicated that Mary Frushour was supposed to forward this information on to Lisa Flanagan, the spokesperson at the Chapter Meeting.

Kim stated she would also announce the five upcoming Board vacancies at the Chapter meeting (Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, AT Director, and Membership Director) and ask anyone who might be interested in serving in any of these capacities to let her know.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vern Crawford made a motion to adjourn, Deb Youngblood seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Patti Guin, Secretary