

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023 MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE
TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST HILL COUNTRY CHAPTER**

Meeting Location: Riverside Nature Center

Time: 2:05 p.m.

Attending in Person: Jeff Schwarz, Carla Stang, Patti Guin, Dot Maginot, and Lou Hugman

Attending by Zoom: Kim Ort, David Drake, and Mark Hults

Absent: David Matthews, Jane Jamison, Deb Youngblood, and Vern Crawford

Also in Attendance: Lisa Marler

Online Voting for Approval of 2024 Slate of Officers

On November 10, 2023, Carla Stang, acting in her capacity as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, solicited an online vote by the Board for approval of the following 2024 slate of officers:

President: Jeff Schwarz

Vice-President: Alice King

Treasurer: Dot Maginot

Secretary: Lisa Flanagan

All Board members responded with unanimous approval.

President Jeff Schwarz called the November 27, 2023 Board meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Patti Guin

Secretary Patti Guin submitted the minutes from the October 23, 2023 Board meeting. On motion of Carla Stang, seconded by Dot Maginot, the minutes were unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Treasurer – Dot Maginot

Dot Maginot reported that there was no income generated for the month of October and expenses totaled \$871.10, with an ending bank balance of \$20,641.80. It was noted that Bamberger Ranch still had not submitted an invoice for payment of the new class field trip expenses and Dot would need to follow up with David Matthews on the status of the invoice. President Schwarz then showed a slide that he had prepared to present at the Chapter Meeting depicting the financial status of our organization for the year 2023. On motion of Carla Stang, seconded by Lou Hugman, the Treasurer’s report was unanimously approved.

Vice President – Kim Ort

Kim Ort gave a report on the status of the end-of-year party being held on December 9. She stated that all volunteers were to meet at the AgriLife Building at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of the party to help with set-up, the silent auction was going well, and all food for the party had been ordered. Kim also stated that to date she had received 65 RSVPs and she had ordered food for 70. After a brief discussion, it was decided that each Board member will bring a dessert and President Schwarz will serve as Master of Ceremonies. It was also decided that the party would begin at 12:00 noon; however, the program would not actually start until 1:00 p.m. Dot Maginot volunteered to prepare a party agenda poster for people in attendance to view. President Schwarz asked Kim to send him a timeline of events prior to the party and to also send him and Dot an RSVP list. There was a discussion about how people would pay for silent auction items. It was decided that the square would be available, but that people needed to be notified that cash or check would be the preferred method of payment.

Kim also reported that she and Alice King had spoken, and Alice was aware that Kim already had the January and February speakers lined up and that Alice would be responsible for lining up all speakers thereafter.

Past President – Carla Stang

In connection with the Chapter Operating Handbook, Carla stated that she would try and get with the remaining three or four directors between now and the next Board meeting and be ready to present the revised COH to the Board for a vote at the December meeting. She said she was in the process of setting up a branded email address for new Board member Lou Hugman, and once the vote is finalized for the new officers, she will set them up with one.

New Class Committee – Jane Jamison

No report was submitted.

Membership – Dot Maginot

Dot reported that we have 59 people who have indicated an interest in attending the next TMN class, and we currently have 206 active members in the Membership Directory. She reported 8 new recertifications for the month, bringing the total year-to-date recertifications to 142. Dot also stated that her next TMN outreach would be on December 2nd at the Winterfisch Celebration & Kick-Off in Mason County. Additional membership statistics can be found in her written report filed in the Board of Directors' folder located on OneDrive.

Communications – Mark Hults

Mark pointed out the new format for his report which was requested by President Schwarz for easier statistical viewing over a six-month period rather than the previous single-month report. An overview of his report revealed that web statistics were down for the month (other than VMS entries); new versus returning members and the device breakdown were remaining constant; the top page views list experienced a change that he suspects is related to the new class, and the most popular YouTube video continues to be "The Rich Archaeology of the Texas Hill Country." He also reported that the Speaker's Bureau project is searching for speakers and their presentations. His goal is to have at least 10 presentations available before going live. For additional information and statistics, please refer to Mark's written report filed in the Board of Directors' folder located on OneDrive.

Volunteer Service Projects – David Drake

David orally reported that he had sent a project report form to all project leaders and had received 18 to 20 responses. He also reported that he had a couple of project leaders that wanted to step down and these positions would need to be filled. A list of in progress project items and pending items can be viewed in his written report filed in the Board of Directors’ folder located on One Drive.

Advanced Training – Deb Youngblood

In Deb Youngblood’s absence, President Schwarz reported that Deb stated there were no changes from last month’s report and that the month of October had almost identical stats.

Chapter State Representative – Vern Crawford

No report was submitted.

New Business

Election of New Officers: President Schwarz announced that the election of officers would take place at the November Chapter meeting. He will announce the candidates that were submitted by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board, then ask if there are any nominations from the floor. All names would then be submitted to both in-person and online members for a vote.

Apache Tree Project: Dot reported that all but one person had picked up their trees from Jack Davis and that she had taken photographs to forward to Apache Tree Project to satisfy their public relations criteria. She further stated that there are a few trees left over, and it was decided that these would be placed in a raffle at the end-of-year party on December 9.

Request by Frank Garcia:

Frank Garcia announced that he needed help with technical support duties and that he had reached out to several members for help.

Announcements

President Schwarz indicated that the next Board meeting would be held on December 18. He also stated that he would look at his calendar and send out several possible dates in which to hold the 2024 retreat.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Carla Stang made a motion that we adjourn, seconded by Dot Maginot. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Patti Guin, Secretary