

Feb 26, 2024

Minutes for Meeting of Board of Hill County Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists

Place: Riverside Nature Center

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Present In Person: Jeff Schwarz, Carla Stang, Lisa Flanagan, Patricia Poore, Dot Maginot, Phil Roberson, Mark Hults, Lou Hugman, David Drake, Carra Milikien

Not Present: Alice King

Others present: Frank Garcia, Amiee Tennant

Note: Carla took notes for Secretary Lisa Flanagan as she continues to convalesce from surgery.

President Jeff called the meeting to order at 2:00.

Approval of Minutes

No T in Jeff's name. Motion to approve: Lisa first, Carra Seconded. Approved unanimous.

REPORTS

Treasurer – Dot Maginot

10 transactions; status quo.

Dot will prepare a 2024 budget for chapter; potentially ready for review by board at next month meeting.

Motion to approve: Mark first, Patricia Seconded. Approved unanimous.

President (Jeff Schwarz) Announcements

Prior to the January chapter meeting/AT, there was dinner w/Terry Hibbits (Speaker) and several Board members and a couple other photography members. Drinks and desserts offered to members prior to chapter meeting at UGRA, plus a couple of raffle items for craft items from Trudy Eberhardt.

Vice President's Report (Alice King)

Jeff reviewed Alice's report.

Past President (Carla Stang): Carla will present summary of changes and request vote to approve revisions to the Chapter Operation Handbook at the chapter meeting tonight. Voting will be done in-person and via zoom. Once approved, the document will be sent to Michelle and Mary Pearl at the state office, and posted on the Website and on OneDrive with other guiding documents.

Programs (David Drake)

David reviewed report. New projects were approved that were able to roll into existing project numbers (e.g. Cross county). There are a couple of new project leaders (Linda and Mary F.) who are replacing someone else. Thanks to them for stepping up. David continues to send bi-weekly emails to members with project needs and highlights. Formed Volunteer Project Committee: Bob Binney and Greg Walton volunteered.

New Class (Carra Milikien)

Carra reviewed report. NCC is meeting twice monthly meetings now to meet target dates.

Proposed Dates for class: Start Aug 14 - Nov 16. Motion to approve: Carla first, Mark seconded. Unanimous approval.

The Welcome reception and final celebration/graduation will be at Gillespie County Agrilife on August 14, 2024 and Nov 16, 2024, respectively. NCC determined that Law and Ethics and Climate and Weather were the only 2 classes that committee felt really HAD to be in person. Options for flow, zooming, field trips, etc. were discussed. The format will be hybrid, with different permutations ensuring diversity, person to person contact, and quality. Four - five field trip locations have good classroom spaces so there are options for class and field experience on same day.

A motion was made to provide clarity and guidance to Carra and NCC going forward: Class Director has the discretion in working with the class committee to begin working on details of hybrid course schedule with goal for lectures to include some form of in-person and virtual options (excluding field trips). Motion to approve: First: Lisa, Mark Seconded. Unanimous approval.

Membership (Phil Roberson)

Phil reviewed his report. Phil will amend his report to reflect that Active in Membership directory to be 198 (only includes MIT who have certified). Board also reviewed the proposed "application announcement email" and the application for prospective students. A few minor changes recommended.

Advanced Training (Patricia Poore)

Patricia reviewed report. On track for number of ATs compared to last year.

Communications (Mark Hults)

Mark reviewed report. Speaker Bureau: Mark requested board permission to go live on the Chapter website with content and also send publicity to Texas Star and local print newspapers.

Motion to approve: Lisa first, Phil Seconded Unanimous approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bandera Museum Grant Request for \$600: Reported by Mark. Project lead (Janis Arterbury & Mark) submitted grant for pollinator garden (Board was notified last month). Might hear back early March.
2. Retreat Dates discussed. Monday March 11 from 12 – 4 PM proposed. Jeff checking availability at Cibolo. Will update board via email.
3. Grants, Donations and Contracts – deferred discussion due to time
4. Hospitality Committee – deferred discussion due to time
5. 2023 Volunteer Hours Summary Report. Jeff reviewed slides from analysis. He will present information at chapter meeting tonight.
6. Question re: donation to Cibolo Center for Conservation. Will discuss/take vote next month when Dot brings 2024 budget for approval.

Motion to adjourn at 4: 08 PM: Dot first, Lisa seconded. Unanimous approval.

Minutes taken and submitted by: Carla Stang