**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Teeling, Kim Wright, Rich Bradley, Darlene Varga, Judy Brupbacher, Joel Dunnington, Cheryl Trock

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan James, Rich Nielson, Val Lefebvre (Education co-chair)

**GUESTS:** Troy Luepke (advisor), Jeanie Springer, Kory Foster

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim Wright had previously emailed August’s meeting minutes to the Board and chairs. Rich Bradley moved that they be approved; Judy seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were approved.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORT:**

1. **Treasurer---**Rich Nielson was absent, but had emailed his report to the Board. See report.
2. **Vice President---**Joel Dunnington reported that 31 people attended September’s Chapter Meeting. The topic was Water 101. Class graduation is October 20, 2016. The new class Orientation will be October 26. The topic for November’s Chapter Meeting will be Sparrows. In December, we will hold our annual elections for officers and have our Christmas Party. Darlene Varga mentioned that on October 5, there will be a Honey Creek Night Hike at Guadalupe State Park. It will be open to members and Darlene is asking that those interested please RSVP in case of cancellation due to weather. Please bring flashlights and water and meet at the Rust House at 7 PM.

Joel said that he will speak with TPML on October 3 to ask permission to again hold our chapter monthly meetings for 2017 on the third Thursdays.

1. **Past President-**--Rich Bradley sent out changes to the Chapter Operating Handbook. Please refer to attachments. He asked if we were ready to vote on the changes. Rich Bradley moved that we accept the changes to the COH; Darlene Varga seconded. The motion passed. Rich Bradley will send the changes to Marie Miller to post on the website. Rich also has the slate of officers and committee chairs for 2017: Joel Dunningtonfor President, Susan James for Vice President, Rich Nielson for Treasurer, Kim Wright for Secretary, Marie Miller for Communications Chair, Debbie Kyrouac and Sara Riggs for Education Chairs,Cheryl Trock for Membership, and Jeanie Springer for Projects. The Past President will be Jim Teeling.
2. **Communications---**Susan James was absent. No report.
3. **Education-**--Darlene Varga reported that there have been 3 online applications and 8 mail-in applications for the 2017 class. She said that 36-40 people have made inquiries. Graduation speakers will be Susan James and Jaynellen Kerr from the Gorge, and Craig Hensley from Guadalupe State Park. Darlene said that one current class student has dropped out and possibly another. They are both students at Texas State. The Education committee has decided to do the Bamberger Ranch Tour every other year, so the 2017 class will be going. The Chapter paid for members to go, but possibly will not pay this next time. Darlene said that someone other than the Education Chair needs to chair Earth Day. Rich Bradley suggested that we get a sub-committee to handle ED. We will need to speak with TPML about ED and the date of April 22, 2017.
4. **Membership-**--Cheryl Trock reported that there have been a few changes with Membership. One inactive member has become active again (Janet Moody). Art Williams had a list of 89 inactive members that Cheryl will have to add to the VMS. She will look at whether the inactive members received the 40 VH and 8 AT hours before she will consider them graduates. She also perused old newsletters to get clarification about “Tech Guidance” (which is not Chapter Administration). She found that members who also serve on community boards (such as NPSOT) can count these hours. The Gorge Preservation Society and the Heritage Museum may also qualify. Cheryl will contact Cheryl Foster, who is the VMS auditor, for more information on this. Our chapter is being audited on the VMS system and Cheryl Trock will send the results to the BOD. Cheryl said that she received a new Administration Guide on August 21, which will help the new Projects Chair with the VMS system. Cheryl said that she was able to check with 3 members at the last Chapter Meeting about their background checks. One had not listed their birthdate, and 2 had said NO to the background check. Troy Luepke reminded Cheryl that these 2 are not allowed on Extension Service property. Everyone working around anyone under the age of 17 must have a criminal background check and if not, they cannot use Texas Parks and Wildlife or Extension Service property, equipment, or handle money. Rich Bradley said that our Board may need to make a statement reflecting that policy.
5. **Projects-**--Judy Brupbacher sent out a copy of the Opportunity Category Definitions (see attached). The responsibility of the Projects committee chair will be to present a list of projects to be approved and make any changes as needed. Judy moved that the Opportunity Roster report for VMS be approved; Darlene Varga seconded. Motion passed. Cheryl Trock mentioned that there is a new project, of which Nancy Fitzpatrick is involved. It is the Plant Rescue project through Landa Park. It involves the collection of seeds from native plants to be propagated and planted in the park. Cheryl did not know about it.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke said that the County Fair was a success. Joel Dunnington and Susan James were there with the Traveling Trunks, which were a big hit with the kids. There were about 3000 people who came through. Joel Dunnington suggested that there be a printable map to the exhibits.

Troy Luepke said that the Arboretum on the Extension property is in bad shape. The maintenance crews have said the Johnson grass is out of control. Troy wants to hold off, but the county can come in at any time and mow. Art Williams has been in charge of the Arboretum, but he will not be allowed to come on the property since he has not had a background check. Someone else needs to take charge of the Arboretum. Troy said he will discuss this issue with Art.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Contribution to TPML---**Jim Teeling contacted Art Williams about the chapter’s contribution to TPML. Art is out of state and will not be able to attend tonight’s meeting. Roxanna at TPML wants a decorative sign post, but Darlene Varga thinks the donation could be put to better use by buying books that focus on nature. This could be an ongoing donation. Judy Brupbacher said that the BOD had wanted something that was visible and promoted Master Naturalists. Perhaps a shelf of nature books with our chapter name on a book plate would be an appropriate donation. Darlene Varga said that we could have a Lunch and Learn about the books available and have Craig Hensley come speak at the meeting. We decided to wait until Art returns and can discuss our options with him.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists