LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

Board of Directors’ meeting

April 27, 2015

Officers Present: Rich Bradley, Rich Nielson, Elizabeth Bowerman, Kim Wright

Officers Absent: Henry Hahn

Chairs Present: Brian Trock, Darlene Varga, Marie Miller, Judy Brupbacher, Sara Riggs (sub-committee chair)

Chairs Absent: Art Williams, Toni Allison, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Valerie Lefebvre (Education Co-Chair), Carol Landry (Newsletter)

Call to Order: Rich Bradley called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Kim had sent out corrected copies of the March minutes. Everything was accurate, so Kim moved that the March minutes be approved. Rich Nielson seconded. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Rich Nielson reported that the cost of the storage shed was added back in to the balance because the shed was returned. The amount added back in was $479, bringing the balance back to $8210.86. Rich said he checked with David Reel and Dexter Cochnauer (previous treasurers) to see if a 2015 budget had been done. It has not so Rich suggested that we use the numbers from the 2014 budget for now until we get a better grasp of our possible expenditures, etc. The By-Laws state that we have to have a budget, so Rich N. moved that the Chapter adopt the 2014 budget numbers for 2015. Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed. If changes need to be made, they will address that at a later date.

Old Business:

1. Green Up Comal---Art and Henry were absent. Marie said that when they planted a tree at her house, she was told that there had been about 50 trees planted so far. The rest will be planted in the fall during cooler weather.
2. Communications System and Scrapbook---Marie said that the Facebook page is up and she has provided a link on our website to it. Darlene said that she has asked the new students if there is anyone willing to replace Marie as Communications Chair, but no one has volunteered to do it yet. There is no update on the Scrapbook.
3. Membership Manual---Elizabeth reported that Texas Master Naturalists is providing guidance to us as to how the Operations Manual will work. The manual committee is on hold right now until they get more information from State.
4. Alternate Locations for Chapter Meetings---Elizabeth said there is nothing new concerning possible locations. Brian reported that 58 people were in attendance at the last Chapter meeting. There are 65 chairs currently in the Agrilife classroom. We need to determine what the occupancy load is for that room, so Rich B. will ask the office on April 28 about that and if there are any additional chairs that can be used for the meetings.
5. Storage Shed Update---The shed that was decided on at the March BOD meeting was no longer available, so Art sent out an e-mail listing some alternatives. Rich Nielson moved that instead of the Suncast shed previously approved in March 2015, we allow up to $500 for the purchase of an alternate shed. Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed.
6. Monarch Way Station---Elizabeth said that Linda Valdez of the Master Gardeners will have a planning meeting of the Master Gardener and Master Naturalist committee, which consists of Judy Brupbacher, Jane Miller, Lois Ricci, and John Davis, to plan the way station at the Agrilife center. Elizabeth would like for this to be a standing project that we will continue to develop these way stations at other locations. Rich N. suggested that one be done at Fischer Park. Other sites could be schools, Mesquite Creek, New Life, etc.) Judy suggested that we could become a central bank to disseminate information to anyone who might want to make their own Monarch Waystation. Rich B. said that the garden at Agrilife will be ready for the Fall Open House of the Master Gardeners. Judy reported that she spoke with someone at Earth Day who was from a fishery in San Marcos. This person is trying to establish a place to grow milkweed. Elizabeth said that Madone Nursery in San Marcos has milkweed.
7. Earth Day Update---Darlene said that there were approximately 168 attendees and 50 workers at Earth Day on April 25.
8. D and O Insurance---Rich N. said he checked with the Master Gardeners and found that we do not need insurance since we have been incorporated since 2003.

New Business:

1. By the Numbers---Brian reported that Michelle Haggerty wants quarterly reports now instead of just the annual report in January. Brian said not everyone is reporting their hours (i.e. there were 8 Master Naturalists who attended the March chapter meeting who did not report that hour). About 31% of the members are not reporting any hours, either because they have become inactive or they are remiss in reporting their hours. One student dropped out of the current class, leaving 16 in the class. We have 109 members and students. Elizabeth suggested that Rich or Brian send out a reminder e-mail each month to get members to turn in their hours and on time. Rich said he would do it.
2. Education---Darlene said that the Bamberger ranch tour is filled with a waiting list. She will need a blank check to take on the tour to pay for the attendees. The maximum amount would be for $600 for 40 people. A field trip to Bracken Cave is scheduled for May 12. Fifty people can attend. Darlene said Elizabeth gave her the names of prospective students for the next class. She will contact them around mid July. Darlene has a paper from Earth Day that says the orientation will be October 29, 2015, but the deadline listed on that paper says October 17, 2014. That needs to be corrected. Rich B. said we should get the flyers out at the libraries.
3. Monthly Program Speakers--- Elizabeth said for May she has lined up Walter Stewart (Bee Cave Man), who is a retired physicist. He will speak on “Growing Rare Native Plants”. Marie will post this information on the website. For June, she has engaged Janice Bezanson, who is the Executive Director of the Texas Conservation Alliance. She will speak on “Solving Our Water Future”, which will address creative solutions to finding water resources for Texas’ future water needs.
4. Hospitality---Toni was absent. No report. Elizabeth said that there has been a lapse in securing food for the chapter meetings, so she will remind Toni to get the word out in a timely manner.
5. Martha Jones Retirement---Martha is one of the County Agents and she will be retiring with a party. She filled in for Glenn Avriett after he retired.
6. Chapter Advisors---Rich said that Chris Wiemers is transferring to Bandera and Craig Hensley is interviewing for a position at Fort Davis. If Craig gets that job, that will leave our chapter with only one advisor, Flo Oxley.
7. GEAA Notice---Rich B. had forwarded an e-mail to the membership from the Greater Edwards Aquifer Authority that asked for support to oppose certain bills before the House and Senate that would affect Texas resources.
8. Speakers for State Annual Meeting---State had sent out a request for presenters and speakers for the annual meeting. There will also be a video contest. When Rich B. sends out the e-mail to remind members to report their hours, Judy would also like for him to remind them to make sure what they are reporting is an approved activity. If it is not pre-approved, it should not count, but if it is reported within a reasonable time (2-3 weeks after the activity), it may be approved. Elizabeth wanted to review a motion made at the March meeting about the Membership Manual. The motion was to approve the revised manual and it was passed. However, Elizabeth wanted changes made, but she arrived to the meeting after the vote. Since there are changes still coming down from State, our changes will need to wait until later. Rich N. mentioned that the trails at the library need maintenance. Sara Riggs said that Sarah Norton with Dinosaur Day would like to combine Earth Day and Dinosaur Day next year. But Dinosaur Day charges an admission fee. Parking may be a problem both at the TPML and the Heritage Museum. Another concern involves our partnership with TPML. Elizabeth mentioned that New Braunfels Parks is considering having an Earth Day at Fischer Park.

Comments and Adjourn: Rich N. moved that the meeting be adjourned; Elizabeth seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists