**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**Board of Directors’ Meeting**

**March 23, 2015**

**Officers Present:** Rich Bradley, Rich Nielson, Kim Wright, Elizabeth Bowerman, Henry Hahn

**Chairs Present:** Brian Trock, Art Williams, Darlene Varga, Valerie Lefebvre, Marie Miller

**Chairs Absent:** Judy Brupbacher, Toni Allison, Nancy Fitzpatrick and Sara Riggs (sub-committee chairs)and Carol Landry (Newsletter)

**Guests:** Evelyn Nielson

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

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Kim had sent out the February minutes for any corrections or changes. Kim moved that the February minutes be approved; Henry seconded. Motion passed. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Rich Nielson has transferred all of the records to Quicken program. He reported that the ending balance for February was $8210.86.

**Old Business:**

1. **Junior Master Naturalists---**Rich B. had no report.
2. **Green-Up Comal Update---**Art reported that 35 trees have been planted so far. He thinks the planting of the remaining trees requested may have to wait until fall and cooler weather. According to Janet Hahn, there have been 95 requests for trees. Brian asked if anyone will be monitoring the health status of the trees once they are planted. Art said that a LMN brochure and tree planting instructions have been left with them and we have contact information for all recipients. We can check with them at later dates to see how the trees are doing. Art said the donor seems to not be too interested in the details of the project.
3. **Communications System Update---**Marie reported that the 2014 Scrapbook is posted online now. It will be available for the public to view. The Scrapbook will be updated twice a year. Marie needs to get an updated members’ list since our chapter has had transfers in and out, and also she will need new e-mail addresses. Henry said he will be working on getting our chapter’s first year scrapbook online soon. He will be sending out an e-mail request for any old pictures from that year. Susan Bogle may have some old photos from previous events. Evelyn Nielson said she has pictures from Folkfest and Wine and Saengerfest, and Brian said he has pictures of the Gorge.
4. **Committee Descriptions/Membership Manual---**Henry reported that he, Elizabeth, and Art revised the By-Laws in late 2014. Now it is compliant with the State By-Laws. Henry moved that we adopt the revised Membership Manual dated March 23, 2015. Rich N. seconded. Brian had questions about the reporting hours section. He would like the deadline for reporting hours to be changed from January 31 to January 15 to coincide with the State’s requirement. Michelle Haggerty asked us to do this. Classes have had another 3 months after graduation to get their hours in for certification, which is why we have had January 31 as our deadline. But Brian said we had 624 hours reported after the State’s deadline, so Michelle had to make changes to our annual report that reflected the additional hours. Brian would like all hours reported no later than January 6 so that we can meet the State deadline. How will this affect the new class? Other corrections to the Manual that need to be made include the requirement that the current class has until the end of the graduating year to certify (based on the new class starting in October of the previous year) and correction of several typos. The Gorge Preservation Society (GPS) is listed as CLGPS (Canyon Lake GPS) on the Projects list. It needs to be changed to GPS. The motion was made to accept the revised Membership Manual. Motion passed. Elizabeth arrived late to the meeting and she had some changes that she wanted made to the Manual. She asked that the Membership Manual committee review and insert the new changes and bring the complete new revision to the April Board Meeting for final approval.
5. **Alternate Locations for Chapter Meetings---**Elizabeth asked if anyone has researched other locations for the monthly meetings. Marie’s church may be a good site. This change would not be effective until January 2016. The Membership Manual states that the chapter meetings be held on the third Thursday of the month, but that could be changed at the discretion of the President. Rich N. wanted to know what the room capacity is for the Agrilife classroom. A sign used to be posted, but no one could find it. Elizabeth suggested that the tables could be moved to allow more room for chairs when numbers warranted the need for more seating.

**New Business:**

1. **By the Numbers---**Brian had sent out his report. We lost a member (David Gwinn) who transferred out. David Reel will receive his 1000 hour pin. We have had 10 recertifications so far for 2015.
2. **Education-**--Darlene said she has sent out an e-mail to the new class to remind them of the April 1 deadline to sign up for the Bamberger Ranch tour on May 20. Only 8 students have responded “yes” so far. After April 1, the remaining spots will be opened to the general membership. Nine students went on the birding field trip with Dana Green. Darlene said that she spoke with someone from the Hayes County Master Naturalists about Clark Wernecke teaching a class on Archaeology sometime next year. Elizabeth may ask him to speak at a chapter meeting this summer. The April class will be Ornithology by the Inglets.
3. **Monthly Program Speakers for April and May-**--Elizabeth reported that Kip Kiphardt will speak on Monarchs at April’s meeting. In May she may be able to get Walter Stewart to speak on the restoration of his property and growing endangered wildflowers.
4. **Hospitality-**--Toni was absent; no report.
5. **Fischer Park-**--Henry is the chapter’s coordinator for Fischer Park. He said there is the potential for lots of volunteer hour opportunities, including outreach and education. Marie asked if Sara Riggs could put a list of workdays on the website.
6. **Check/Reimbursement Requests-**--Rich N. said he sent out forms for reimbursement and tax exemptions. A member would initiate the form(s) and send them in to him. Rich B. wants Rich N. to send out an e-mail to members to let them know the procedure for reimbursement. Marie said she could put the forms on the members’ only page. Darlene said she needed a speaker’s mileage amount we paid last year so she would know what to pay him this year.
7. **Storage Shed Solutions-**--Art had previously sent out information on a Suncast 7x7 shed he found at Home Depot. He has since found one at Walmart (Suncast 6x8) for $100 less at $499 instead of $599. Marie moved we approve the purchase of the 6x8 Suncast shed at Walmart; Elizabeth seconded. Motion passed. Art will need to fill out a request form for the purchase of the shed. Rich B. thinks we should also invest in water/air tight containers for the Traveling Trunks.
8. **Chapter Advisor-**--Rich B. reported that at the Taxonomy class last Saturday, Flo Oxley was awarded her Honorary Membership badge for the Lindheimer Master Naturalists. He also discussed submitting her Outreach stats for our chapter. Rich approached Flo about her becoming our third chapter advisor. She said “yes”. Elizabeth moved we accept Flo Oxley as our Chapter Advisor; Marie seconded. Motion passed. Flo will be our third advisor, along with Craig Hensley and Chris Weimers. Rich B. will send an e-mail to Michelle Haggerty to let her know about Flo. How can our chapter best utilize these advisors? Other than having them speak at classes or chapter meetings, they may be able to give advice on projects, such as Fischer Park and the Monarch Waystation.
9. **Open Discussion-**--Rich N. asked if our chapter had Directors’ and Officers’ insurance. It would cost about $200/year and would be for elected officers. Rich N. said he would check into this. Brian said that the Membership Manual states that members have their hours in by the end of the month, but he is fine with the 6th of the next month as deadline for submission.

Background checks are not mentioned in the Manual. This requirement has always been unclear.

Brian said that on April 22 from 8:30 AM-1 PM, Craig Hensley will lead a search for the Chatterbox Orchid at Guadalupe State Park. E-mail Craig if you are interested in attending. It will count as volunteer hours.

Henry took a photo of the officers for the scrapbook.

**Comments and Adjourn---**Kim moved the meeting be adjourned; Henry seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists