**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**OCTOBER 23, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joel Dunnington, Kim Wright, Cheryl Trock, Jeanie Springer, Rich Nielson, Marie Miller, Darlene Varga, Art Williams, Jim Teeling, Debbie Kyrouac, Troy Luepke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**  Sara Riggs

**GUESTS:** Lois Ricci, Mike Hammack (future Education Chair)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jeanie Springer had recorded the September meeting minutes in Kim Wright’s absence. Joel Dunnington moved that the minutes be approved; Rich Nielson seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

1. **Change to LMN Chapter Operating Handbook---**Joel Dunnington reported that the changes he had made were sent to State for comments and feedback. The State will have their changes made in November, so Joel will wait to see what they are.
2. **Headwaters at the Comal-**--Joel Dunnington said that the Headwaters committee had a meeting this day; Art Williams and 9 others attended. Art said they will utilize professional planters and that most of the tree planting has taken place. The mulching will take place next week and they should be finished by November 4. The plan is to open December 1 and there will be a fee to enter. Memberships will be available. The park will close in December and reopen in February. Art said he has committed Lindheimer Master Naturalists to assist with programs. He said in November he will try to get Lady Bird Johnson folks to come down to make presentations. Art wants to film these for use later in Orientations, etc. Cheryl Trock asked if a field trip could be made to the Headwaters. Art thought it likely. The site has had some archaeological artifacts, so there have been some delays. There will be more information later.
3. **Texas Star Award-**--Art Williams has the procedure lined out. Only BOD members can nominate and vote for the nominee. Darlene Varga thinks that the only people in the Chapter who know what members are volunteering for are Brian and Cheryl Trock (Membership and VMS), so the BOD would not know who to vote for to receive the award. Darlene sees no need for the award. Joel Dunnington thinks that Art could do some editing to his proposal. Marie Miller suggested a Lifetime Achievement Award instead. After much discussion, Art decided to make a motion to NOT consider the Texas Star Award for the Chapter; Darlene Varga seconded. The motion passed.
4. **State Annual Meeting-**--Joel Dunnington attended and made a report. See report. Marilyn McFarland received 1st place for our Scrapbook and 2nd place for a photo entry. Joel asked if anyone was interested in being the 20th Anniversary Chair from our Chapter or being an Ambassador for the Endowment. No one at the meeting volunteered.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Rich Nielson has been working on the 2018 budget. See report. He requested that the Chairs send their budget requests to him soon. He reported that $1157.22 was spent purchasing the books for the new class. Rich said that the Traveling Trunks expenses were a little over their budget.
2. **Vice President---**Art Williams reported that the videos he has been working on were redone. He did some editing and one video is about 25-28 minutes long. There is a 10 minute one that can be used for Orientations. The videos could be shown at the March Chapter meeting since Art already has speakers lined up for January and February.

Cheryl Trock asked if the Texas Star Logo, with its scientific name, could be used on items. Troy Luepke said if it’s on the Texas Master Naturalist website, then it can be reproduced.

Landowner Program---SLOAP (Smart Landowners Assistance Program)---Cheryl Trock said this could be introduced at the March meeting.

TPML Meeting Dates---Art said that the chapter meeting dates are set for 2018 at the library, including June and December, which have been issues in the past. Cheryl Trock reminded everyone that the Chapter Annual Elections and Party would fall on December 20, 2018 and that is too close to Christmas. The date should be changed to December 13, 2018. Darlene Varga thinks that the Christmas Party and Annual Elections should be whenever the chapter wants to have it.

Chamber of Commerce---Art Williams thinks that our chapter should be a member of the Canyon Lake Chamber. We used to be members due to the Bartrams’ involvement with the Visitors’ Center, but are now only listed on the Chamber’s list, not the public list. Art would like to donate the $100 to become a member of the Canyon Lake Chamber. Joel Dunnington asked what the benefit would be to our chapter. Rich Nielson said that being a member puts your name on their website, plus the chapter would be listed in their brochures. Rich will check on the cost of membership to the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce. Jeanie Springer said she will check on the cost to belong to the Bulverde Chamber.

1. **Past President---**Jim Teeling reported that he has some people slated for the officer and chair positions. Rich Nielson will run for President, Jim Doyle will run for Vice President, Treasurer will be Evelyn Nielson. Mike Hammack will be Education Chair and Marilyn McFarland has agreed to take over as Communications Chair from Marie Miller, but wants to also continue as Historian. No one has yet been tapped for Secretary.
2. **Communications-**--Marie Miller reported that the Newsletter is on the website as of today.
3. **Education-**--Debbie Kyrouac reported that the new class has 38 applicants. Many people are asking, but will be placed on a waiting list. The class will be capped at 30. Rich Nielson said that he ordered 32 books, but couples will probably share a book. Orientation is set for Wednesday, October 25 with 5:30 PM sign-in and 6:00 PM start time. Joel Dunnington will welcome the new class. Jim Teeling said he is bringing gingerbread, and others are bringing more refreshments. Debbie Kyrouac and Mike Hammack want guidance from the BOD for the Education Committee. Mike asked if the BOD wants a new class member to chair Earth Day. And does the chapter still want to hold Earth Day at TPML? Or join with other organizations and possibly participate at another location? Mike wants to be on the agenda at the Orientation.

Joel Dunnington will probably host a party at his house for the new class.

1. **Membership---**Cheryl Trock reported that Michelle Haggerty made a decision about a recent transfer from another chapter who was in the VMS but had no entries. She will be allowed to audit our new class. Cheryl said that the students will need to get their hours in soon in order to receive their pins in a timely manner. The new class will be entering their own training hours with Cheryl Trock’s guidance. Cheryl has done this for them the past 2 years. Rich Nielson asked for the names of the new class members so that he can order their name tags.
2. **Projects---**Jeanie Springer had Lois Ricci attend our BOD meeting to explain more about the project at New Life, which is a home for at risk young females. Lois passed around information on the facility and what the volunteers are doing there. The Butterfly Garden has been there for 17 years. In order to work there, you must have a more comprehensive background check, which is paid for through the school. Lois said that you must go in as a group since there is a security gate. Jeanie Springer said that the project has already been approved and the Master Gardeners have been volunteering there. Cheryl Trock said she would like more information to be on the project description.
3. **Outreach---**Darlene Varga reported that at the Comal County Fair, 721 children and 437 adults visited the Traveling Trunks booth. During the 4 hours at Science Fest on October 8, 511 children and 439 adults visited. There was really good feedback from those who visited. Darlene said there are 55 new brochures left. Darlene said she has 1100 toilet paper tube binoculars for Santa’s Village. The Inglets sent stickers for the binoculars. Darlene says that she needs volunteers for 6 days---December 7, 8, and 9 and December 14, 15, and 16. One of those nights is the Christmas Party. She needs 3 people to work from 6-9 PM each night. Darlene asked if we were responsible for erecting our house at the Village. Art Williams said that community volunteers help to set everything up. Darlene also talked about having bookmarks for older children. Craig Hensley sent a bookmark design to Darlene. She asked what kind of information should be on the bookmark. Art Williams said he will consider some ideas for the bookmarks; they should have promotional information on them.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Joel Dunnington sent Troy Luepke an email about the video kit that is available through the District Office in Uvalde. Troy said that Agrilife has a tripod and Ipad that can be used to produce videos for the 20th Anniversary of Texas Master Naturalists. Troy said he is very particular about who uses it. What Agrilife has does not have the lenses and microphone that the kit has. Joel asked Troy to ask Uvalde what they have and if it can be purchased without the Ipad.

Cheryl Trock asked if anyone has seen Ron Morris and Emmie Ikels lately. She is concerned because she has seen no activity reported from them on the VMS. Art Williams said that he will see them on November 7 at the SLOAP meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rich Nielson asked if the Chapter has ever done a Junior Master Naturalist program. The chapter has discussed this in the past but it never came to fruition. Joel Dunnington said that he has never seen anything about it on the State website. Troy Luepke said there is something about it on the Parks and Wildlife site.

Rich Nielson said that other chapters charge membership dues. The most expensive is $25 per year. Darlene Varga said she thinks that charging a membership fee would make us look more professional. Rich Nielson suggested that the dues could help pay for membership in different Chambers of Commerce. This topic will be added to next month’s agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Joel Dunnington moved that the meeting be adjourned; Mike Hammack seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists