# LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS

**BOARD MEETING**

**APRIL 23, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Nielson, Evelyn Nielson, Brian Trock, Marilyn McFarland, Kim Wright, Jeanie Springer, Art Williams, Darlene Varga, Debbie Kyrouac, Jim Doyle, Joyce Doyle

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Hammack, Sara Riggs, Joel Dunnington, Troy Luepke

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim had sent out a draft of March’s BOD meeting minutes for corrections. Corrections were made. Darlene Varga moved that the minutes be approved; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson reported on the storage facility. He decided on Westpointe Storage. They have a lock. It is a 5x5 on the first floor. Rich said he will pick up shelving---either a metal and wood 2x4x6 for $85 or a 3x3x6 plastic one for $100. We will not be sharing the space with Master Gardeners. We will put our filing cabinet in there to store papers and other items such as our marketing brochures. Rich said that State wants to know how much money we received in donations. We received no donations in 2017. We can put on our brochures that we are a non-profit 501c3 organization. It could include a tear-off portion for people to make donations. We could also have car window stickers promoting our organization. Darlene Varga said she has researched these options before. We could get set up on Amazon Smile or set up a link on our website where people can donate. Categories could include $150 to sponsor a student for our training classes or $200-500 to sponsor a Traveling Trunk. This way we wouldn’t have to ask for membership dues. We really need to work at marketing the Lindheimer Master Naturalists. Jim Doyle asked Rich if we participated in the Big Give. Rich said it costs $250 to register. Other Master Naturalist chapters conduct fundraisers and give different pins to recognize the different levels of giving.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REOPRTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson gave the treasurer’s report. See report. Evelyn wants to amend a line item under Outreach called Storage. She wants to add $750 to cover the first year’s rental plus the cost of a combination lock and shelving unit. The price per month would be $54. Evelyn made the motion to amend the budget to reflect the above changes; Darlene Varga seconded. Motion passed. Evelyn said there will be a sign-in sheet at the storage to record who has checked out what item(s). Darlene said there is a dolly there to help with moving things. Rich Nielson said he has the Bird Trunk already for Wein and Saengerfest.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that he has arranged a field trip to Cemex on Saturday, May 19th. Anyone interested in going needs to contact him. Art Williams said that he has his video ready to present at a chapter meeting and he will present it at TPML tomorrow. He’ll see how it goes there. Art has spoken with Henry Hahn about turning the video into a movie.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington was absent. He will need to revise the COH to reflect the changes made at the last chapter meeting.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland had sent out her monthly report to the BOD. See report. She said that the notice in Stammtisch in the Zeitung was incorrect. It gave no location or contact number for the chapter meeting. Marilyn said that social media looks good. Website changes have been made. She has reduced redundancy and she wants to revamp the Welcome page. If someone wants to post something quickly, she can post it on Face Book. It can still be viewed on the website and the Out and About calendar. If Marilyn had another Webmaster, she could get things out even faster. She is learning Word Press. Other ways we can get ourselves noticed is to have chapter t-shirts or caps with a logo, or pins. We could ask members for suggestions. What shape would the pins be--- size, shape, color, cost? Sara Riggs can send this notice out on Out and About and Face Book to ask for input.
5. **Education-**--Debbie Kyrouac reported on Earth Day. Brian Trock said the numbers who visited our booth were 125. The weather was iffie that day. Debbie and Mike Hammack will meet in June or July to discuss our future participation in Earth Day. We were competing with other locations that had an Earth Day observance. Darlene Varga had spoken with NBU and the Headwaters at the Comal about joining forces with them, or our chapter having a combined Earth Day and Open House at Agrilife. Art Williams said that the Friends of the Library has fundraisers and maybe we could combine Earth Day with one of those. Darlene said that was not the issue. There are just too many other Earth Day celebrations going on that splits the numbers in attendance. Debbie thinks that we need to schedule a training session on the trunks during this down time now that most of the spring’s festivals are over. Darlene wants a list of those who have manned a trunk before. Brian Trock said he worked at the headwaters yesterday and the trunks would have been a big hit.
6. **Membership-**--Brian Trock submitted his report. See report. He has dropped 2 members due to inactivity. He reported the numbers for the various festivals---Dino Day was 430, Folk Fest was 942, Earth Day was 125, and Headwaters was 425. He said he got no names for potential members at Folk Fest; he got 8 names at Earth Day, and 14 names at Headwaters. Rich Nielson wants to gather all of this information from the various festivals to see how much time has been expended to reach people. Darlene Varga said that the Science Fest last September was a huge success and we had no brochures to hand out. Marilyn McFarland suggested that if we are at a maximum in the classes, then we could have “friends” of the chapter who might be donors.
7. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer has updated the Projects List. She sent it to Marie Miller to post on the website. She reported that she had 1 application for AT---the field trip to Cemex.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga reported that Evelyn Nielson wanted to be on the trunks as a sub-permittee. Darlene found out that she can add names to the list without a fee. Darlene has a list for volunteers to sign up for Open House and Wein and Saengerfest. Rich Nielson will install the shelving in the storage unit on May 1, so Darlene can bring the trunks to the storage after that. Tables, banners, and canopies will continue to be stored at the horse shed, but other supplies, such a papers, tablecloths, and brochures can now be stored in the storage unit.
9. **PAL-**--Art Williams reported that since late December, the PAL group has made 14 visits to landowners with properties ranging in size from 1 acre to 245 acres. Right now, they have no visits scheduled. Brian Trock said he has been handing out brochures, so maybe more people will become interested in using the service. Art said he was disappointed that he only received 5 applications for PAL through the article in the Zeitung. Art reported that the Heritage Museum will partner with us at the North Pole Village and do the fossil table.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Marilyn McFarland asked if we could have a raffle at the chapter meetings. Evelyn Nielson said that NPSOT cannot. Can a 501c3 organization have a raffle? These questions will be researched.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Agrilife Open House is April 28. Wein and Saengerfest is May 5. Rich Nielson said he will have the Birds, Snakes, and Geology trunks for Wein and Saengerfest.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists