**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rich Nielson, Evelyn Nielson, Kim Wright, Jeanie Springer, Darlene Varga, Brian Trock, Jim Doyle, Joel Dunnington, Debbie Kyrouac, Mike Hammack, Troy Luepke

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marilyn McFarland

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Kim Wright had sent out the August minutes for corrections. Minor corrections were made and the final copy was sent out to the BOD. Joel Dunnington was out of town and had a correction that he wanted to make, so Kim said that she would make that correction and send the new final copy to the BOD in the days to come. Joel Dunnington moved that the minutes be approved with the stipulation that the one correction be made; Kim Wright seconded. Motion passed.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Neilson passed on his report until later in the meeting.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson reported that the end balance for August was $7628.60. The ending register balance was $6321.38, showing that $1307.22 was spent on new books for the incoming class. See report. Joel Dunnington moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Jeanie Springer seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that he had a submission for the Community Recognition Award for the Headwaters at the Comal. Jim Jameson and Laird Ingham are on the committee with Jim.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington has sent the final copy of the Chapter Operating Handbook to State, but has had no reply. Joel pointed out that State has several discrepancies in their policies. Rich Nielson, Rich Bradley, and Joel Dunnington are on the Nominating Committee to find candidates for the 2019 slate of officers and committee chairs.
4. **Education-**--Mike Hammack said that there are 30 approved applicants for the new training class, with 4-5 on the waiting list. The orientation is October 25 and the first class is November 7th. Mike said that there were no comments or suggestions from the BOD on the new curriculum, so Mike will send it out to Out and About to be posted. Debbie Kyrouac said that the committee is checking on class milestones for certification, pins, certificates of graduation, etc. Everyone in the class will receive an envelope at the graduation, even if they have not completed their requirements. The envelope will be empty for those that have not certified.
5. **Membership-**--See report. Brian Trock sent an email through the VMS system that now shows lifetime hours at the upper right corner. He said there is still no progress on the Criminal Background Checks. There are 68 members who have expired CBC’s. Rich Nielson said that he will bring this up at the Presidents’ Breakfast at the State Meeting. Brian did say that 2017 was the best year for recertification statistics in that there were 94 members who recertified. Brian compiled information on different VMS opportunities---see report. Guadalupe River State Park has the most volunteer hours combined. Mike Hammack wants Brian to give him updated opportunities for the class.
6. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer said there was no activity to report.
7. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga reminded us that the Comal County Fair was coming up. She had a good sign up for the Science Fest. Rich Nielson said that the bike race Tour de Gruene was giving trees as prizes for the winners. The chapter does not need to be there to recruit for the new class as we have a full class already.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke asked if our chapter has had any educational classes at the local libraries. Darlene Varga said that she arranged for Nyta Brown (Bats) and Craig Hensley for the Lunch and Learn series at Tye Preston Library. Valerie Lefebvre spoke on the Appalachian Trail and Beth Jameson does a program at TPML called Growing Wild, directed toward pre-schoolers. Beth works with the librarian and uses the Bird Trunk and fishing rods. Judy Brubacher and Joyce Doyle have assisted Beth with this program. Troy Luepke has been asked by the library to do some classes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Gorge Gala is October 25. The Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden, and Wildscape (BBW) needs volunteers to help. Money will be put in the budget for next year to help develop this project. It will be a showcase for the Agrilife property.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Normally the Christmas Party would fall on the third Thursday in December (December 20), but everyone thought that this was too close to Christmas. Joel Dunnington thinks that we have reserved TPML for December 13, so Evelyn Nielson moved that we have the Christmas Party on December 13th; Debbie Kyrouac seconded. Motion passed.

The December BOD meeting would fall on December 24. We have the option of having the meeting after Christmas and before New Years, but the BOD decided to forego having a December meeting.

Rich Nielson said that Jensie Madden sent him information on the Nature Conservancy near Bracken. The Conservancy needs management and education on the property. The chapter may be able to help by working with other entities, but not on our own.

Don Epps told Rich Nielson that he would gladly serve as treasurer for 2019. Brian Trock said that a transferring member from South Texas (Sandra Carson) wants to serve as Secretary, as Kim Wright has declined to run for Secretary.

Rich Nielson showed the BOD the T-shirt with the Master Naturalist logo on it. The BOD liked the shirt, but agreed that it needs to be any color but gray. Rich asked if any member would like a window sticker for their car. He also said that we could have a bumper sticker that says “We support Lindheimer Master Naturalists” for non-members who make a donation to the chapter.

Joel Dunnington asked Rich Nielson if he had asked State about counting hours for other groups (reference discussion in August minutes). Rich said that he had not.

Rich Nielson said that one member has refused a CBC because of identity fraud that occurred in the past. This person is afraid that they will be flagged for something they did not do.

Brian Trock asked Rich Nielson if he is running for President again. Rich indicated that he will run. Jim Doyle will also run for Vice President again.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists