**LINDHEIMER MASTER NATURALISTS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**OCTOBER 22, 2018**

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

**GUESTS:** Joe Finneran, incoming Education co-chair

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joel Dunnington, Troy Luepke

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The September minutes were sent out by Kim Wright for corrections. Corrections were made. Jim Doyle moved that the September minutes be approved; Kim Wright seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** Rich Nielson attended docent training at the Headwaters at the Comal. Rich said that they are finding atlatl points at the site. Rich said he located the atlatl that Ray Laxson, a member, had made years ago. He wants to loan it to the Headwaters. At that, Darlene announced that our chapter no longer has an Archaeology Trunk. She said the items from the trunk were returned to Ray. There were no objections to loaning the atlatl to Headwaters. Evelyn Nielson suggested that we have a contract with Headwaters that the atlatl will only be a loan to them from our chapter. There was a question about bows and arrows.

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Treasurer---**Evelyn Nielson reported that the register end balance was $6093.60 and the bank ending statement was $6471.38. See report. Kim Wright moved that the treasurer’s report be approved; Marilyn McFarland seconded. Motion passed. The report was approved.
2. **Vice President-**--Jim Doyle reported that the Community recognition Award was given to Headwaters at the Comal. Star Awards will do the plaque for $45. It will be presented at the January or February chapter meeting. Jim said that he will preside over the November chapter meeting due to the absence of Rich Nielson.
3. **Past President-**--Joel Dunnington sent his report via email. He will send a slate of officers for 2019 to the membership in November. The candidates can speak at the December meeting if they like before the election by paper ballot. There is still no one lined up for Outreach Chair. Outreach may have co-chairs if Joyce Doyle and Beth Jameson decide to do it. Darlene Varga does not want to continue as Chair. Rich Bradley will serve as Past President since Joel Dunnington does not wish to remain in that capacity.
4. **Communications-**--Marilyn McFarland sent her report via email. See report. She is learning Wordpress. Marie Miller will continue as webmaster. Mairlyn said that the website is for static items and Facebook will serve as the go-to for current items. Marilyn said that she has had questions about relief efforts by fundraising. There are also questions about Chapter partners vs. non-partners. Jeanie Springer will address this in her Projects report. Darlene Varga said that she has pictures from the Science Fest. Marilyn told Darlene that she can post them herself on Facebook, but the children’s faces cannot be shown. Darlene said there is one of Lois Ricci, a member. Marilyn said that our chapter scrapbook cannot be entered into the State competition for 3 years since we won last year. She said that we have 42 photos entered into the Photography contest and that a new category is Birds, in addition to Wildlife, Scenery, and Plants. Mike Hammack said that the class photographer has pictures of birds from the birding field trip. There is a $500 budget for Communications committee and Marilyn said that she has used $200 for mattes for the pictures.
5. **Education-**--Mike Hammack reported that the new class orientation is October 25. The presentations are ready. He will send a reminder to the class applicants. He wants Rich Nielson to do a welcome of about 2-3 minutes. Darlene Varga had questions about the class books. If someone has a book from last year, can the spouse who is taking the new class use that same book? Yes, that is okay. The first class will be Wednesday, November 7, due to election day being on Tuesday, November 6. Pete Bryant will be the speaker on ecology. The first field trip will be November 10 to Honey Creek. Joe Finneran reported that they made a few minor tweaks to the curriculum. Almost all of the speakers and field trips are confirmed for 2019. Brian Trock asked if Cheryl Trock could speak first at the November 7 class. Cheryl will be the incoming Membership chair. Rich Nielson said that we cannot purchase class t-shirts until 2019 since we are over budget for Education. Mike Hammack suggested that we order the shirts to arrive January 2, 2019 for the class. Debbie Kyrouac said that the budget for speakers was $250 for 2018, and Mike Hammack requested the same amount for 2019. Marilyn McFarland asked if members could attend the classes, and they can if there is room. There is a 54 person capacity for the classroom.
6. **Membership-**--Brian Trock sent his report via email. See report. He will not be present at the November BOD meeting. Jeanie Springer has agreed to do the Membership report for November. Brian will also not make the November chapter meeting, so he gave the sign-in sheet for the meeting to Rich Nielson. Kim Wright and Brian Trock said that they will miss the December 13 chapter meeting/party due to a conflict. Brian said that 19 members have not reported any hours for 2018. He will send an email to these members in November. He said that 27 out of the 30 class members graduated. Those three who did not graduate have missed classes that need to be made up before they can graduate. Mike Hammack thinks that 2 of those class members can view the videos of the classes they missed in order to graduate. Seventeen of the 27 have certified and 6 have re-certified. Marilyn McFarland asked Brian Trock if he wanted her to post the chapter meeting attendance on the website. That would be good.
7. **Projects-**--Jeanie Springer submitted her report. See report. She said that she had 3 submissions for the month. She said that there are still unanswered questions about the Comal County Conservation Alliance, and she’s still awaiting a response from State concerning this matter. Rich Nielson said that State said that CCCA cannot be a partner with our chapter. Committee work with CCCA does qualify as volunteer hours. Marilyn asked if we can’t be partners with CCCA, how can we count volunteer hours with them? Brian Trock mentioned that on the VMS system, you cannot write an Opportunity to fit an activity. The activity must fit under an Opportunity as written. Darlene Varga said that Jeanie Springer needs to ask Elizabeth Bowerman what activities may count as Advanced Training and Volunteer hours. Jeanie said that the AT and VH for CCCA will be pending until further information from the State. There are lots of concerns about how this will be handled. Rich Nielson will address this at the State Meeting. Marilyn McFarland said that she receives emails from CCCA to post their events on our website. Rich Nielson will speak with Elizabeth Bowerman, president of CCCA, about this.
8. **Outreach-**--Darlene Varga submitted her report. See report. She said that it rained at the Science Fest and it was chaotic. The Outreach numbers, 717, were low because of that. The Comal County Fair numbers were better. They reached 1280 people. Darlene said that she worked the Monarch Pollinator Festival in San Antonio. Marilyn McFarland wants information on these events for the Newsletter.

**COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:**

Troy Luepke was absent. No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rich Nielson reported that the registration for the Gala closes on October 25. The Bird Blind, Butterfly Garden, and Wildscape (BBW) work has been delayed due to rain. The December meeting/party will be December 13 at Tye Preston Library. The BOD decided to cancel the December BOD meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Rich Nielson reported that archaeology tours at the Headwaters at the Comal will begin October 30 at 9:30 and 1:30. They are finding artifacts at 6 different sites. The work will finish in January because of a budget limit. The artifacts will go to Texas State University. Hours volunteering at the Headwaters will count because they are our partner. There will be another docent training.

Joyce Doyle said that we will only have 2 rooms at TPML for our party. She asked for ideas on a program for that night. Joyce moved that we move our future December meetings/party dates from the third Thursday of December to the second Thursday. Evelyn Nielson seconded. Motion passed. Jim Doyle will notify TPML to reserve the second Thursday in December for 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kim Wright, Secretary

Lindheimer Master Naturalists