

Minutes for STMN Board of Directors Meeting 10/7/2020 (via Zoom)

Attendees: Bibi Dalrymple, Chuck Blend, Rosemary Plank, Randy Bissell, Cindy Frank, Chad Huckabee, Philip Woods, Dawn Bissell, Paul Silva, Leslie Hoekstra, Christy Blend, Gary Harper

A quorum was established.

Call to Order at 7:07 pm - Bibi

Review and approval of September minutes.

- Randy reported that updated September minutes are available on the TMN-ST website, www.txmn.org/st for review and archival purposes.
- These minutes will be available at that same website.

Reports of standing committees and officers.

Initial training – Phil

- 1st in-person training held Sept. at Hazel Bazemore Park.
- Chad and HawkWatch were featured.
- Next date, Oct. 10, at PINS.
- Working calendar through middle of January is established.
- Welder Wildlife Program in development.
- Things are going well.
- We had full attendance at last virtual meeting on Oct. 6.
- Art was featured presenter on History of Padre Island.
- One initial trainee has completed over 40 hours of volunteer work.

Nominating committee – Blyth

- Blyth was absent from the meeting.
- Chuck Blend covered the topic.
- Rosemary Plank shared that 5 or six people had been approached about officer openings with no positive response.
- Chuck affirmed that the recruitment effort was negative.

President – Bibi

- Report from 9/28 TMN President's Meeting via Webex
 - o Virtual Volunteer Fair was a success with 650-900 participants.
 - o Fair was recorded and will be available.
- Updates to the Chapter Operations Procedures were solicited.

- Timing on next year updates will be changed avoid conflicts with the State Meeting and other busyness at the end of the year. Watch Spring 2021.
- Additional training opportunities, such as Wordpress are available to Chapters.
- Current guidelines for COVID continue.
 - o 50% capacity for spaces.
 - o 50 people max.
 - o Face masks.
 - o Follow local site rules.
- Expect changes to guidelines for Citizen Science hours.

Vice President and Chair PPP committee – **Chuck**

- Art, Cindy, Rosemary and Chad working hard on the PPP but it is a slow process.
- Working first and finished with typos and inconsistencies.
- Creating consistent wording changing chairperson to director.
- Addressing proposed changes to operational structure.
- Chair recommends face-to-face meetings to discuss further issues.
 - o Oct. 12, 1-3 pm at the Botanical Gardens Education Center.
 - o Address all concerns and ideas and meet to maximize benefits.
- Bibi stated that the Elected Board will vote on changes to the PPP.
- The changes will be shared to members with 10 or 15 days notice for Chapter vote.

New Business - **Bibi**

Motion from the Outreach Director, Randy Bissell: Purchase \$100 worth (5-6) of outdoor rated plexi-glass holders for official recruitment brochures from the TMN to be placed at willing nature sites around the Chapter area. Ordered by Randy Bissell and subject to reimbursement with a receipt.

- Seconded, Rosemary Plank
- Discussion: Randy wants to place TMN brochures at various nature site locations and to offer each weatherproof plexiglass holders. He'd like to buy several and get reimbursed.
- Question: Who will stock the holders. Randy will and provide brochures to locales willing to host the brochures.
- Motion passed without objection.

Discussion of Issues/Proposals - **Bibi**

Background: an email was sent to some of the Board expressing a need to address the lack of willingness on the part of the membership to step up and volunteer for key officer and committee roles.

Discussion on Encouraging participation in chapter administration – **Chuck**

- Efforts have been made to nominate members for the upcoming election of two board positions by the nominating committee with no success.
- This is a recurring situation when members are solicited for roles in chapter administration.
- The sign-up sheet and election process will be difficult this year.
- Attempts to fill positions have been met with a lack of enthusiasm.
- The following is a proposition for consideration: **Decide as a group (Chapter) that serving in administration is a requirement.**
- Participation is a problem. It will continue to pop-up.
- We need to share the load across the Chapter.
- Working in the Chapter is a privilege and a responsibility.

Rosemary continued...

- People look at responsibility as drudgery, when it is an opportunity.
- Members need to learn about these things.

Leslie Hoekstra, as a new member, was asked what she thought would help.

- Most groups go through the same kind of problems.
- Not knowing what a job involves.
- More information would be necessary to decide if incorporating a requirement into training would work.
- Shared that she does not easily volunteer.

Chuck clarified his points.

- Consider a 2-pronged approach.
 - o Education people on jobs.
 - o Require service.
- Some step forward readily.
- New blood is needed.
- Worry over self-defeating attitudes and resentment among workers.
- People should be willing to try out positions.

Randy raised the following points.

- Sees reluctance to commit as a natural state of our society and demographic factor in our target audience.
- Believes that a movement in that direction at this time could mark the “death knell” of an organization.

Phil added.

- People have enough to do in initial training.
- Ramping up the mentoring committee is a good solution and that is happening now.

Chad added.

- Agreement with Randy and Phil.
- Getting positions filled is always a challenge, but especially now with COVID and not meeting face-to-face.

Paul Silva added.

- We cannot add service as a requirement.
- We need to build relationships with other members, which may be hard now.
- Use the email and newsletter to get the need out.
- Use the phone. We spend way too much time sending emails. A call is more personal.
- Conversation is important.
- Find your “go-getters” and ask them one-on-one.

Rosemary responded that Blythe called a number of members and spoke with them without success.

Paul closed with encouraging words to continue personal efforts to ask members to serve.

Randy shared that he had been working with someone on secretary duties already.

Bibi shared that such efforts good approaches for personal recruitment.

Discussion closed with no motion or decision.

Upcoming Meetings – **Bibi**

- Next Chapter Meeting Date – October 21, 2020
- Next Board of Directors Meeting Date – November 4, 2020
- November Chapter Meeting Date – November 17, 2020
 - o Election of New Officers
- December Board of Directors Meeting – December 4(?), 2020
 - o Financial Exam
 - o Election results

- Budget

Rosemary added that she's got a 2021 Budget ready. Suggested that it be sent out soon.

7:56 pm Call to Adjourn - Bibi

Administration/BoD meeting 1 hours

Respectfully submitted by Randy Bissell
October 9, 2020