

Hays County Master Naturalist Board Meeting Minutes

September 10th, 2015 at Camp Jacob Watershed Education Center

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:34. Beth Ramey was asked to take minutes.
 - a. Present were Art Arizpe, Candy Spitzer, Lin Weber, Karen Archer, Beth Ramey, Larry Calvert, Dixie Camp, Susan Neil, Helen Bowie, Roxana Donegan, Mary Dow Ross, Beverly Gordon and Jane Dunham.
 - b. Not present were Tracy Mock, Richard Parrish, Gordon Linam, Dick McBride, Susan Kimmel-Lines, Leah Laszewski, Tom Watson and Hope Shimek.
2. Minutes of the August Board meeting were reviewed; Larry Calvert moved to accept them as submitted, seconded by Jane Dunham. Motion passed.
3. Announcements – Art mentioned the Chapter Facebook page and encouraged all to visit.
4. The Board Calendar was reviewed. The Nomination Committee needs to be assembled to find officers for 2016. Larry Calvert, as Past President is default Chair. Art asked for volunteers to assist; Dixie Camp and Helen Bowie responded. They will meet separately and provide a slate of officers during the General Meeting at the Gala in November. The Awards Committee will be determined at the October board meeting.
5. Candy Spitzer provided a report from the Willett Committee and presented the committee's recommendation to contract with UpBeat Marketing of Austin to develop a public website, provide training for web administrators, provide one year of site maintenance, assist with a social media strategy, provide a print media template and designs for two types of signs to be used at chapter work/project sites. The project would cost \$16,900, to be provided by the Willett Grant funds. Details of the agreement were reviewed. Roxanna Donegan moved to accept the agreement as presented; Larry Calvert seconded. There were several questions, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Art Arizpe will sign the contract and Beth Ramey will process payments per the agreement. Candy asked that Outreach members start putting copy together for the initial brochures. Art asked Candy to send the site examples to him so others could see what UpBeat has done with other accounts. The next step in the process is for the HCMN Executive Board, Willett Committee and the UpBeat team to meet for a kickoff event. This will be scheduled as soon as possible. Target completion of the project is Dec. 2015.
6. Karen Archer announced that she was unable to set up a Bracken Cave field trip for September's Chapter meeting, but had secured Dr. Randy Simpson the director of the Wildlife Biology department at TSU. His research includes wildlife management, vertebrate ecology, resource selection, and invasive species. The title of his talk will be "Wildlife Research, Job or Vacation?" He will be discussing the various wildlife species that he and his students have been researching. October's Chapter Meeting will feature Minette Marr to talk about Native Plants. Both meetings will be at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Wimberley. They have extended meeting room rate of \$40 per session to HCMN for the remainder of the year.
7. No report from the Secretary

8. Beth Ramey provided the Treasurer's report. Available funds are \$ 7,956.09. Willett Fund is still \$25,000. Net cost of the 2015 Social was \$317.42, as opposed to the \$1,100.00 that was originally budgeted. The difference was the fact that we charged members for the meal this year.
9. Past President Larry Calvert had no report.
10. Susan Neil, Training Committee Chair reported that all committee positions for 2016 had been filled except Videographer. The 2015 class selected "Cypress" as their class name. All but one of the 2015 class members had completed the requirements to graduate in Nov. and that person is planning to make up the missed classes in early 2016.
11. Helen Bowie, Outreach Chair, reported that HCMN would have booths at the Rainwater Revival Nov. 7th. The Outreach committee is going to schedule an event with a local Home Schooling group in the upcoming weeks.
12. Host Committee – Roxanna Donegan and Mary Dow Ross shared their choice for the Gala Dinner – Thai Gourmet for \$15.00 per Adult. The anticipated total cost of the caterer will be approximately \$1800. They will need a deposit of ½ that amount to hold the reservation. Larry Calvert moved to approve a check for the deposit not to exceed \$1000; it was seconded by Dixie Camp. Motion was approved. An invoice will be forwarded to the Treasurer for payment.
13. Dixie Camp, Chair of Volunteer Services, presented a project request from Ashley Whittenberger. The request was discussed. Dixie will correspond with Ashley to clarify Chapter standards for Volunteer Projects
14. Jane Dunham, Webmaster, asked for feedback and suggestions on the member website.
15. Art Arizpe shared the results of the Member Survey from the Social. It was decided that we would also send the survey out electronically to get more input. Art will send the document to Beth Ramey to create a survey in Survey Monkey.
16. Larry Calvert moved to adjourn, Karen Archer seconded; motion passed. Meeting adjourned.