

MINUTES

HAYS COUNTY MASTER NATURALIST BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 5, 2007

7:00pm – 9:30pm

600 Red Hawk Road

Wimberley (Winifred Simon's Home)

In attendance: Treasurer Winifred Simon, VP Dixie Camp, President Dale Shively, Secretary Susan Nenny, Host Committee chair Jean McMeans, Membership Committee chair Judy Telford, Newsletter Committee chair Richard Barnett, Public Relations Committee chair Walt Krudop

The meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Approval of Agenda

Dale asked for additions to the agenda. There were none. Jean McMeans moved and Judy Telford seconded that the agenda be accepted. The motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurer

Treasurer Winifred Simon reported that many members responded to the dues request, and we now have 64 paying members.

The Board discussed dinner and rental costs and fundraising opportunities.

Dale will draft a survey for Board input to gauge preferences of the membership on dinner with chapter meetings, i.e. meals versus no meals and their cost, i.e.

Do you like having dinner before the chapter meeting?

Would you prefer that meals not be served?

Do you like the food?

The June meeting will not provide dinner, as this event will be promoted as a public event. Beverages and some snacks may be provided.

Winifred reported that the bank has begun charging for cancelled checks. She will investigate to see if there is a way to get them electronically at no charge.

ACTION ITEM: Winifred will investigate check charges and options. Dale will draft a membership survey.

Membership

Judy Telford distributed a list of volunteer projects and a tally of hours comparing 2006 and 2007 to date. The group discussed trends. Many projects are dormant based on zero hours reported. The group discussed labeling as inactive projects that show no volunteer activity and dropping those that show no activity after 2 years.

The chapter's signature projects of Jacob's Well and the By-pass re-vegetation have no leadership at this time. The County has hired a landscape architect to lead the by-pass project. Dale and Walt will schedule a meeting with David Baker (Jacob's Well) and Commissioner Conley (By-Pass project) to discuss how the HCMN can play a role in the projects.

Outreach

Walt Krudop reported that the state strategic planning committee will have two more meetings between now and the annual meeting. The statewide governance plan will change somewhat. The volunteer council will no longer exist, but regional reps will meet several times a year. Beginning next year, each region will elect a representative who will sit on the state committee that advises Michelle Hagerty.

ACTION ITEMS:

Walt will contact four papers (Wimberley, Buda, Dripping Springs, and San Marcos) to publicize the June chapter meeting.

Judy Telford will ask Barri at the Extension Office for the class membership list to be added to the chapter mailing list ASAP.

Secretary

No report.

Vice President

Dixie Camp reported that the 3-day fire prevention training is still in the planning stages at Comal County MN. The cost will be \$50.

Newsletter

Richard Barnett had no report. He still needs information for the newsletter. The Board discussed adding a more personal touch to the newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Susan Nenney will send out a notice to all members requesting any personal news items that might be of interest to the membership

Training Committee

Jean McMeans, Training Committee member, reported that the class has about 25 consistently-attending trainees.

The Training Committee is examining the schedule to possibly adjust meeting spaces and dates to improve facility and logistics. The Committee is working to move all classes into the larger room at the Wimberley Community Center. The kitchen can only be used for an additional fee. Andrea will move the class to the larger room at no charges as existing reservations permit. If these changes can be made, the class will run much more smoothly.

Jean reported that two class members were turned away from the Canyon Gorge trip per the site regulations. Nancy is working to get those two into another chapter's trip to the gorge.

This class has fewer classes but some site visits are required and will be counted as class. Students are still receiving the required 40 hours of training.

Butterfly Boot Camp is open to the chapter membership. It will be held 9a-noon, May 19 at the Freeman Ranch.

Dale will request more information on the recent Canyon Gorge field trip at which a number of students were turned away due to the size of the group. The Gorge now has a limit of 25 members per group visit. Students must have priority to attend. Dale also will talk to Carter about policy.

ACTION ITEM: Dale will contact Nancy and Carter for more information.

President's Report

Dale led a discussion of the chapter direction. The group discussed setting field trip dates and publishing the rest of the year calendar by the June meeting. To the extent possible, this work will be accomplished via e-mail.

Date of Next Board Meeting \ Location:

The next Board meeting will be held 7:00, June 7 at Jean McMeans' home, 2000 Fischer Store Rd.

Adjourned at 9:30pm.

Submitted:

Susan Nenney, Secretary