

Hays County Master Naturalists

Board Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2013

Camp Jacob, Wimberley

In attendance:

Beth Ramey
Lin Winter
Leah Laszewski
Larry Calvert
Art Arizpe
Richard Parrish
Karen Archer
Ben Adair
Lee Ann Linam
Kim Ort
Charles Maxcy

Not Present:

Dec minutes - Move approved

Leah
2nd Larry
Approved

Highlight accomplishments – keeping a folder throughout the year to share at the year end gala.... milestone, event, articles published, awards won. Ben suggests to mention them in meetings minutes and have the historian keep track.

Leah – personal things appropriate to put in newsletter? Maybe not, use the forum instead?

Board Projects – are there any projects that we as aboard would like to take on...for example the summer social, was gala in the past. New webpage this year? Specialized training certification program (Larry Calvert). Art is soliciting suggestions.

Lin mentions she is becoming more and more troubled by us feeding ourselves at the chapter meetings. Would rather see the funds spent on something more permanent per Ann historically they would order pizzas and everyone would chip in...maybe if host committee organizes food, snacks, etc...then we can spend money on “a signature item” action item, art to talk to host committee.

Leah – another project idea...recertification – getting numbers higher, people tend to drift away after a few years. The data suggests drop off after about 3 yrs. Would love to retain because they get more knowledgeable as time goes by. Mentorship program? There are already mentors in the training class, but can the general membership be mentors too? Phone calls after chapter meetings. Kim, survey of what makes people join the hcmn. What about emails, blast out survey monkey, phone calls to inactive members, action item – volunteer project opportunity, see who bubbles up...maybe ask for one volunteer per class so they are not calling complete strangers. Don't want to end up with a lot of data that we don't use. If you are 'inactive' for a while, do you have to catch up on dues? No. Action-Ben will help develop some questions. Action-Leah will look back at each class to recruit “helpers”. Action-Larry will send Leah the spreadsheet

Karen – February Chapter Meeting

Biologist who conducts the salamander program at barton springs.

DS Episcopal church

Per Lin – at that location you must specifically ask that the screen be available. Send AT to Tom Hassler to post on the Forum

All ready to go with - Hummingbird feeders for gifts and thank you notes

Needs to know ‘budget’.

People really like field trips, what about May June, caves in July August

The Narrows (Richard Barnett) – on Blanco River on private property.

Would anyone enjoy watching bat emergence at Bamberger?

Leah suggests field trip to Texas Disposal Systems landfill, exotic animal ranch, methane use, etc.

Action item secretary-Email minutes to entire Board and Herb will post to the website

Action item Beth – contact list? New group email list that we can use for bulk bcc emails

Beth, Treasurers report 2012 – put together a 2013 budget...she thinks we need bigger budget for the background checks. Larry put 200 administrative budget for folks to attend the state conference for presentations. Should we increase the budget? Mistake found, 1140 income from the gala was put into expenses by mistake. +464 income instead of -675

Bank balance 12217.47 as of this week.. Need to plug budget numbers in at the Feb meeting. Please review & come with comments, or email them to Beth so she can prep budget right after Feb meeting.

Anyone that will make purchases needs a tax exempt card so that we wont pay sales tax. change zip to 78676

Richard – office has 5-6 several youth water fairs scheduled through the spring. Dana will send out information as each comes up.

Lee Ann – official audit report fwd to secretary so that we can insert. November state wide meeting talked about state wide projects, probably not, projects will continue to be managed at a local level. Wish that volunteer hours be spent within the geographical area where your training occurred rather than projects that are at a statewide level. Waiting for more guidance.

Larry – Met with Diane W (SMRF) high praise for all master naturalists. Annual Report - Appreciates everyones input, highlight is total hours is 25% more hours than last year. Anyone besides Leah and Beth with changes or corrections? None. Deadline is Jan 15

Leah – Add City of Kyle Parks & Rec as a ‘new partner’

This report went a lot smoother than in years past.

Grants / donations – grant for Charro Ranch, that donation simply passed through us, so not reported.

Water Specialist Training (Leah brought idea back from conference) One way to retain people is to conduct some advanced training / certifications (North Tx is doing something ‘bird’ specific) two other state wide is rainwater and entimology (week long) no others that we know of. Ever heard of Landowners consultation class? Any of these positions that get

developed, the state could call on them as a resource. Need small group of people with knowledge of water & ideas about a program outline, determine hours needed, define scope, then prepare a formal document to submit for state approval, also come up with a list of teachers who are qualified to teach this. Mar. 1 identify group, Jun – curriculum review, then board review Kim's comments – has been trying to develop advanced training 'tracks' ie...Flo doing plant track in SM. Mammal experts DS, amphibian experts etc...series of AT sessions...water training in Wimberley, etc.

Larry & Leah will develop a basic outline of the 'water certification' to present before the board at a later time. Motion Lin, 2nd Beth

Kim – great job seeking out AT opportunities, feel free to call in help

Dixie is sick

TC- Lin – deadline for application was Tuesday, on Wed. there were 36 Decided to go up to 40 class size, 14 names on list for next year. One withdrawn, class of 39 for this year. 4 scholarship applications received \$80 Leah moved. Beth 2nd, to approve 4 (1/2 paid) scholarships. Not as many students this year. TC met last week, is ready. Lee Ann coming to first class on Feb. 5.

Kim – AT, working on training tracks. Still approving things that are coming in. article in newsletter. Put in newsletter periodically, maybe quarterly? Excel spreadsheet with what is approved & when they are, and it's on the website calendar.

Ben – Membership – access to Gmail. Membership due Jan 31st. classroom presentation set up date. Db processing, creation of project numbers, printed reports, want to go over with Beth. Question shrimp pin? Sent. Change to a new reporting system? Number of active members? 77 paid members so far, last year 120.

Leah – Outreach – display on winter birds at the SM library in Dec, will be in Buda library in January. Tons of stuff going on the calendar for the spring. Charro Ranch outreach, Kim has been asked to put together the plan. This year it will need 'direct outreach' added for the guided hikes, etc. so far the only things that have been done were indirect (trail building, etc.)

Leah is preparing a Charro Ranch flyer detailing all the volunteer opportunities. Action item – Leah, brochures on the speakers bureau.

Charles – Historian, plan for this year. Don't see this position as being a long term position. We do a good job of capturing all the goings on of the chapter, along with pictures. See newsletters, meeting minutes, etc. the gaps were in the beginning when the organization first started. Oral history from first class, collect, scan, put online, write a summary of the high points from each researched year. Take all paper items & put in a file cabinet at the AgriLife Office. Collect gather & summarize the first few years of the chapter, develop a guideline for the secretary to 'summarize' at the end of each year. Art feels that having an ongoing 'historian' oversight is still needed. Leah feels we need to create a job description, already written in the chapter bylaws or guidelines.

Lin Leah move to adjourn at 8:15