

Hays County Master Naturalists

Board Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2013

Camp Jacob, Wimberley

In attendance:

Helen Bowie, Host Committee
Beth Ramey, Treasurer
Dixie Camp, State Representative
Charles Maxcy, Historian
Herb Smith, Webmaster
Larry Calvert, Past President
Lin Weber, Training
Karen Archer, VP
Art Arizpe, President
Tracy Mock, Secretary

Not Present:

Ben Adair, Membership
Richard Parrish, Extension Agent
Lee Ann Linam, TPWD Representative
Leah Laszewski, Outreach
Tom Hausler, Volunteer Service Projects
Kim Ort, Advanced Training
Lisa Kay, Newsletter

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm

The April board meeting minutes were reviewed. Dixie made a motion to approve the minutes, Lin seconded. The motion for approval of the minutes passed.

Action items from the April board meeting were reviewed & discussed.

Announcements

- We received a Thank You email from Melanie, the recent Butterfly Festival was a success.
- Michelle Haggerty at AG-TAMU is working on a website reporting tool.

Board Calendar – Looks good. The only action item is for TC Chair in July, and Lin is already working on it.

V.P Report – Per Karen –

- May cave tour is half full for Sun. 5/19. **ACTION ITEM-Tracy to send out another email reminder to the membership to hopefully get both cave tours full.**
- June – Austin Reptiles at the SM Ext. office. Even though it will cost \$150 it's a great program & Tim Cole brings lots of live snakes. Lin made a motion to approve payment of \$150, Beth seconded, motion passed.
- July – we traditionally skip this month due to summer vacations.
- August – Chapter social planned for the 10th.

Secretary – Tracy

Will email a reminder to the membership about the cave tour. Also have noticed a few undeliverable email addresses... **ACTION ITEM – Need to cross check with the membership list (Ben)**

Treasurer – Beth emailed the current budget year to date prior to the board meeting. The current bank account balance is \$11,354.80
Current YTD dues \$1,724 compared to \$1,785 at this time last year. Beth also reports that we received a cash donation from Susan Santamaria regarding the Dripping Springs Founders Day Celebration in April.

AgriLife Agent – Richard was not present, but he did confirm to Art that there is will be no requirement this year for the chapter to reimburse AgriLife for partial recover or class member screenings.

TP&WD Representative – Lee Ann was not present.

Training Committee – Lin reports an outstanding class of 36 members at this time. They are all very busy racking up advanced training and volunteer hours. Westcave fieldtrip and a site visit are coming up soon.

Advanced Training – Kim was not present.

Newsletter – Lisa Kay was not present. ACTION ITEM – It was suggested that a recurring “info” box be added to the monthly newsletter to broadcast upcoming Advanced Training opportunities. As Kim arranges AT hours, she can email the Secretary (for broadcast to the membership), and also copy Lisa Kay for inclusion in the newsletter (if timing permits). ACTION ITEM #2 – A section in the newsletter “How To Report Hours”.

Membership – Ben was not present.

Webmaster – Herb provided a copy of his report “HaysMN Website Planning”. Please refer to the attachment for discussion points.

State Representative – Dixie mentioned the DS Charles O’Dell Memorial Gardens...who is responsible for PR and can we do a better job? See “Outreach” below...

Outreach – Leah was not present, but sent a report to Art...we had a successful Earth Day celebration. Outreach affected 80 participants. An item for discussion How can we have more of a presence in the Kyle/Buda area. How can we connect with the Plum Creek Watershed group? Lin brought up the idea again of HCMN benches as a way to “brand” our organization. Should they be stone, metal? Is this a function of the Outreach Committee? Also, regarding PR for the organization, it was suggested there be a monthly recurring “presentation” or topic of interest that is submitted to all the news organizations in our area, ie... Dripping Springs Babble, Hays Free Press, SM Record, SM Mercury, what if we had a Facebook and Twitter presence? This sounds like it is appropriately the Outreach Committee, but possibly a second person to develop a social media presence. Further discussion needed.

Volunteer Services – Tom was not present.

Host Committee – Helen reports the food at White Wings was great. We are currently seeking a suitable Kyle location. There will be no snacks

provided for the field trip, and she will bring a menu for the Knox social gathering to the next board meeting.

Lin made a motion the meeting adjourn and Beth seconded. All agreed and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm