

**Hays County Master Naturalists
Board Meeting
September 6, 2012
Camp Jacob, Wimberley**

In attendance:

Larry Calvert
Anne Child
Chris Middleton
Lin Weber
Art Arizpe
Leah Laszewski
Dixie Camp
Jeff Vasgaard
Eva Gomez
Charles Maxcy
Vicky Maxcy
Kim Ort
Eva Gomez
Herb Smith
Tom Hausler

Not present:

Beth Ramey
Helen Bowie
Lee Ann Linam
Richard Parrish

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

The action items from the August minutes were reviewed and all three had been completed. Lin Weber moved to accept the minutes and Leah Laszewski seconded the motion.

The member survey from the social was discussed and the following action items resulted.

Larry Calvert agreed to e-mail the person who said chapter activities within 30 minutes of where they live would help them be more involved.

Larry Calvert also agreed to contact the person who suggested links to other websites to better understand what they had in mind.

Larry Calvert will send the name of the person who wanted more projects on the other side of I35 to Art Arizpe so he can follow up.

Scholarships for the upcoming 2012 State Meeting were discussed. Dixie Camp made a motion to award the scholarships to the two chapter members making presentations at the meeting and set the amount awarded at \$100 each. Leah Laszewski seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. It was also agreed that next year the board would start looking earlier to determine if there are people in the chapter with need for help in order to attend.

Action Item: Dixie Camp will contact the two speakers and let Beth Ramey know to send them a check.

The need for a recertification reminder was discussed. Last year, 55 out of 118 members recertified. The link between volunteer hours and grant money for Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWL) was mentioned. Larry Calvert pointed out that every hour reported is valued at \$21.43 and that TPWL gets back three times that much in grant money which is \$64.29.

Action Item: Larry Calvert will prepare an e-mail to be sent to the membership reminding people of the need to report hours so they can be recertified and explaining the link to TPWL funding.

An awards committee for the upcoming Gala scheduled for November 17th at the Activities Center in San Marcos was formed. The payment of dues at the Gala was also discussed.

Action Item: Vicky Maxcy and Beth Ramey agreed to work together to put the information together that will assist the Awards committee in making a decision by the October Board meeting. Dixie Camp agreed also be part of the Awards committee along with Larry Calvert.

Action Item: In early October, Beth Ramey will prepare a reminder e-mail to be sent to the membership regarding the fact that dues must be paid by the end of the year and that they can be paid at the Gala. In addition she will point out that a person can remain a member and participate in activities by paying their dues even if they haven't recertified.

Anne Child reported that plans were in order for the next two meetings.

Because of other commitments, Jeff Vasgaard made a motion that the board make an exception this year and allow Dixie Camp to take over his responsibility to head up the Nominating Committee. Lin Weber seconded the motion that carried unanimously. Tom Hausler volunteered to help Dixie in the search for candidates. The nominations must be completed by November 2nd.

Jeff Vasgaard discussed ramifications for the transition of Jacob's Well for activities that involve the Master Naturalist organization. First he requested that the Master Naturalists become the "umbrella" organization for the yearly Docent training. It was agreed that the board would ponder this request and discuss it at the next meeting. He also reported that the school outreach program will transition to the Master Naturalist organization as per a memo prepared by Jackie Mattice.

Action Item: Jeff will send a copy of Jackie's memo to the board.

Dixie Camp reported that all rooms had been sold out for the Texas State Master Naturalist conference, but that they are still taking registrations.

Action Item: Dixie Camp agreed to find out if submitting the newsletter as our chapter's achievement this year is possible.

Action Item: Art Aripze will gather photos of this year's activities for display at the State event and also provide a nice copy of the recent Charro Ranch article.

Dixie Camp mentioned the need for three volunteers at the Rainwater Revival in Boerne on October 27th.

Action Item: Dixie Camp will prepare an e-mail to be sent to the membership requesting volunteers for that event.

Lin Weber reported that, of the 37 trainees, seven will not graduate and that 11 trainees attended the social. Lin also made a motion that a check for \$500 be issued for the trip to Bamberger Ranch. Leah Laszewski seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Kim Ort reported that 11.5 hours of advanced training had been approved this month. Kim also reported that she is in the process of setting up advanced training on mammals for next year. The topic of webinars as advanced training was again discussed and it was agreed webinars would be allowed only if they were pre-approved by Kim.

Action Item: Kim Ort will prepare an e-mail for the membership letting them know what had been decided with respect to Webinars.

Vickie Maxcy reported that things were coming along nicely after the recent transition. One issue involves people who turned in advanced training hours for activities that have not apparently been approved. Vickie Maxcy will contact the people involved to apprise them of the situation.

Herb Smith reported progress to date with respect to the new website and that he is working with Art Arizpe, Charles Maxcy, and Leah Laszewski on various aspects of

the transition. When it is to a point where he is ready for review by the board he will send out an e-mail with a link to the new site. It was suggested some young people from the current class also be asked to help with the review.

Art Arizpe reported on the Naturescapes Contest and said Larry Calvert will be presenting the award at the opening reception on September 15th.

Action Item: Art Arizpe will prepare an e-mail inviting the membership to the Naturescapes reception and ongoing exhibition.

Leah Laszewski reported that the previous day Kim Ott had previewed four new speaker's bureau presentations and that one was scheduled a public presentation for next Thursday. Also the article on Thistle has been submitted to a number of Hays County publications.

Plans for the annual Gala to be held on November 17th were discussed with the following action items resulting.

Action Item: Eva Gomez will put together a "save the date" e-mail for distribution to the membership by the end of September.

Action Item: Eva Gomez will develop the food options for the Gala for presentation at the next board meeting.

Action Item: Art Arizpe will prepare a draft of the program and send it to the board.

Lin Weber moved to adjourn the meeting and Larry Calvert seconded. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.