

Minutes for Board Meeting – Hays County Master Naturalist Chapter – Sept. 4, 2014

Submitted by Beth Ramey

Meeting was called to order at 6:28. Present were Art Arizpe, Karen Archer, Beth Ramey, Leah Lazewski, Larry Calvert, Dixie Camp, Beverly Gordon, Susan Kimmel-Lines, Helen Bowie, Gordon Linam, Jean McMeans and Hope Shimek.

Art Arizpe, Pres., announced that Hope Shimek had agreed to serve as Newsletter editor.

The Jacob's Well Park area now closes at 6 PM and after-hours meetings must be arranged with Brooke ahead of time. It was decided that we would purchase two tables to use when we meet there and store them at the facility. Beth Ramey will make purchase.

There were no minutes provided from the August board meeting. They will be reviewed in October.

The Training Budget discussion was tabled until October in order to allow Dick McBride to be present.

The Nominating Committee is working on reviewing candidates for the 2015 board and will be ready with a slate for the Gala. Art asked that any current Board members who wish to continue in their current role contact him as soon as possible.

The function and timing for the Awards Committee was discussed.

The Naturescape Photography Awards event is Sept 13th. Karen Archer will speak for the Chapter. Award winning photographs will be displayed at the Gala.

Karen Archer, VP, announces that Ben Swartz will be the speaker at the Sept 25th Chapter Meeting. The topic will be Part II of his earlier presentation on Hydrogeology. October's Chapter meeting will be a field trip to the Federal Fish Hatchery in San Marcos if all details can be arranged. More info later.

Karen Archer proposed the chapter purchase a portable amplifier and microphones to allow better sound for speakers and events in large venues. Some discussion ensued. A motion to make the purchase was made, seconded and the action was approved by unanimous vote.

Larry Calvert announced that the Chapter had been awarded \$25,000 from the Willard Foundation to support our work in Hays County. A committee will be selected to determine a mission for the funds. Further discussion will follow in upcoming Board meetings.

Beth Ramey provided the August budget report and asked that all current Board Members and committee Chairs provide a proposed budget for 2015 prior to the elections in order to assist new members with the planning process. All agreed to review the planner. This discussion will continue in October.

Dixie Camp reminded everyone about the Texas Master Naturalist 15th Annual Meeting, October 24-26, 2014 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX. She will send Tracy Mock information to request auction item donations for the meeting. Dixie will be contact person for donations.

The chapter typically pays tuition for the standing chapter president to attend the Annual Meeting. Art Arizpe declined the award and asked for suggestions of a member we could sponsor instead.

Dixie Camp reports on the Social that was held Aug. 16th at John Knox Ranch. She thanked the Project coordinators that had displays at the event.

Jean McMeans provided the report for the Training Committee. The last site visit was completed and the Bamberger field trip is upcoming. There are 33 active trainees, 12 of which have already met their certification requirements.

Susan Kimmell-Lines, Advanced Training Chair, reported that after a lull in mid-summer, opportunities were increasing.

Hope Shimek announced the next Newsletter would be published in October.

Helen Bowie, Host Committee Chair, reported there were 70 attendees at the social. She has reserved the John Knox venue and the chef for 2015 for the Social to be held on August 28th. Menu options for the 2014 Gala were discussed. Helen will send Tracy Mock a list of volunteer needs for the gala to send out to the membership. The Gala is November 15th.

No report – Gordon Linam, Beverly Gordon, Leah Lazewski

Meeting adjourned.

Action items:

*Art Arizpe – contact Tom Watson regarding photos for the gala

*Dixie Camp – send Tracy announcement for auction items for Annual Meeting

*All – start working on 2015 Budget. Beverly Gordon = \$0, Herb Smith received. Dick McBride – received and pending discussion.