

RGV Chapter Texas Master Naturalist
2024 August Board Meeting
Aug 6, 2024

Attendance:

Officers

Robin Gelston - President
Betsy Hosick - Treasurer
Dan Martin – Second VP
Emma Gonzalez – First VP

Directors and Committees

Joni Gillis Membership
Marilyn Lorenz – Outreach
Barb Peterson - Education
Teresa Du Bois AT

At large

Joyce Baer Halpern - Winter Texan
Jose Palmos – Cameron County

Others

Alicia Cavazos

Agenda

1. Call to order –The meeting was called to order at 5:40pm by Robin Gelston
2. Approval of Prior Board Meetings Minutes – July minutes were not submitted for approval as no quorum was present. Robin will send to leadership for approval via email
3. Reports

Treasurer – Betsy reported a savings balance of ~23K and checking of ~ \$11K. \$2,000 of what is in checking came from the United Health / TPWS coop grant, \$1,500 is earmarked for the trainees who participated in those walks. Because the project got off to a slow start, the minimum of 8 walks might not have been met by the trainees. Robin is suggesting perhaps 6 walks, and if we don't use the whole amount perhaps carry balance forward to next year. Betsy agrees we should only use it for its intended purpose.

Membership – Joni reported that current membership at end of July is 166 members, 148 active, 13 in training, 1 advisors, and 4 TMN associates. 2 People from the last class are very close to certifying. She reported having investigated promotional gifts for speakers at our pin website. She has 8 different types. She will send out an email for discussion at our next meeting.

New Class Training – Barb Peterson reported 21 people expressing interest in class. They will limit class to 30, and registration will begin October 15. She and Amy have met and have contacted some members to see if they will serve on the committee. Things are moving along.

Advance Training – Teresa Du Bois has been posting on Facebook quite a few opportunities of many different varieties.

Volunteer Service Project – David not in attendance. The bat data has been downloaded and is being reviewed. Laguna Vista walking trails is going well, the work crew meets on Wednesday, but the mosquitos and the heat are keeping them from doing a lot of work. Palo Alto Battlefield NP project got their grant and soon will be looks for 3 to 4 volunteers. The \$500 has not yet been received. Donna Otto and Eileen Mattie are working on an application for Tony for an 2024 State advisory award due on September 15. Provide any information you would like to on Tony that you think would add to the submittal to Eileen or Robin.

Outreach - Robin found some things including the business card we used to have. She'd like to include the email address and our website address. She will update it once we use the old ones up. She will pass them to Dan so he can take to the meeting and people can see them and send any suggestions to Robin. Also found some "proud sponsor" stickers that she'd like to update to "proud partner" and then distribute for display by our partners. She also found a Master Naturalist brochure that she will leave in the next meeting for review and suggestions for updates. Also there is a book mark that is basically the same. Also Marilyn has created stickers for children. Marilyn reported there are a couple events in August at STEC (Family fun night August 16 and a Moth night August 16). Birding Center is having Big Padre's birthday August 24.

Old/Pending Business - Robin asked Javier de Leon if we could do another field trip and he said we could at Estero Llano Grande either the 14th or 21 of September. Alicia stated a preference for Sep 14 as the 21 conflicts with the San Benito wetlands survey.

New Business - Still having issues with volunteer hours. Much comes from the confusion of what we can and can't do with our partners, but if the partner is making money off the task we are volunteering for, then we cannot report the hours. Robin is still trying to iron out the gray areas with the state. Joni said we need to remember our purpose is to promote TMN and promote our purpose.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Alpert