

Friends of Balcones NWR
Board Minutes
March 15, 2017

In attendance:

Board Members: Lynette Holtz, Dub Lyons, Jane Brunclik, Fred Zagst, Pat Wilkinson, Joan Mukherjee, Shelby Baetz, Wayne Collins, Evelyn Nugent, David Brady.
Visitors: Jean Nance
Staff: David Maple, Jennifer Brown

Jane B called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Jean's Oral History: Jane Weaver

Jean provided a brief history on Jane Weaver (owner of the Nameless Road estate). Jane was a lover of animals. She volunteered at the Waco Zoo, meticulously observed native wildlife, and helped raise red-shouldered hawk chicks on her property. Jane wished for the money from her estate to be used for land purchasing.

Minutes Approved: Motion to approve by Shelby Baetz, Second by Lynette Holtz.

Treasure Report: Pat Wilkinson, Checking: \$240,143.19, Money Market: \$126,116.58.
Motion to approve by Lynette Holtz, Second by Fred Zagst.

Refuge Report:

David Maples reported that 100's of people came through the refuge headquarters over spring break. The doeskin trail received enough visitors to open parking across the highway. The refuge received a visitor serves review that provided short and long-term improvements. Fire crew is mostly done burning on the refuge and have since traveled to fight wild fires and conduct prescribed burns. Volunteers conducted trail work on the doeskin trail system – culverts and rock steps. Two interns from the SCA are conducting Monarch surveys between San Antonio and Dallas.

Jennifer Brown is settling into the refuge. She recently trained 12 refuge volunteers. The refuge is booked through spring with school field trips.

Amphitheater Committee

Wayne received estimates for a 36'x36' structure to cost \$40,000. This was smaller than the original discussed size of 70'x40'. The board agreed that the structure should be large enough to cover 100-120 individuals.

Jane told the committee to consider a future water collection system and bird blind in the same area.

Fundraising Committee

Jane brought up the Cow Creek GIS survey. Jane voiced Kelly Purkey's concerns that the survey can only be accessed for 1-year, is expensive, and a study should be funded/adopted by multiple agencies.

The S. Lee Keller Foundation made a \$1,000 donation to FOB.

FOB has added 26 new members since January.

Songbird Festival Committee

Jane reported that there are 61 registrants. Registration is ½ full, need to increase the number of registrants.

Trail Committee

Jane reported that in 2017 there have been 4 workdays. 2 in January; 1 in February; 1 in March. The Central Texas Trail Tamers have assisted and provided technical guidance. They built up the creek crossing at doe skin.

Networking

Refuge has joined the Children in Nature Network. FOB paid \$100 to the Hill Country Alliance to partner with them.

Branding

5 words to describe the goals/actions of FOB

Wayne

1. Awareness & relationship to the environment.
2. Service to the community.
3. Education and Exploration

Dub

1. Environmental Education
2. Volunteering
3. Support

Shelby

1. Values
2. Visionary
3. Conservation
4. Protection
5. Education
6. Nature-centric

Fred

1. Friendly
2. Outdoors
3. Education/Youth outreach
4. Acquisition

Lynette

1. Conservation
2. City-escape
3. Nature Exploration

Evelyn

1. Awareness
2. Service
3. Access

David

1. Conservation
2. Education
3. Interpretation
4. Fundraising

Website

Board discussed the appearance/function of website. Consensus was the website is busy and may need some restructuring.

End of Meeting: 6:28 p.m.

Motion, Dub Lyons. Second, Lynette Holtz.

David Brady, Secretary