

Friends of Balcones NWR  
Minutes of the Board of Directors  
May 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. Jane Brunclik conducted the meeting.

Board members present were Shelby Baetz, Jane Brunclik, Wayne Collins, Dub Lyons , Evelyn Nugent, Pat Wilkinson and Fred Zagst.

Refuge staff present was Jennifer Brown.

Ruth Lyons was present as a visitor.

The minutes were approved

The treasurer's report was presented by Pat Wilkinson and was accepted. The checking balance as of April was \$ 247,830.88 and the Money Market account balance was \$ 126,132.31 Pat Wilkinson stated that the annual audit is coming up.

Reports:

1. Jane handed out a "Draft of Board Responsibilities & Duties" and asked that everybody read it and make comments on it before the next board meeting.
2. Refugee report was presented by Jennifer
  - FOB paid for Liberty Hill buses for environmental education
  - Fire crew is on the road
  - American Conservation Experience (ACE <http://www.usaconservation.org/>) Conservation Corp will be volunteering at the refuge re-treating invasive trees
  - The refuge is going to get an intern for monitoring monarchs.
  - The refuge is to get 96% of funding for this fiscal budget
  - David Maple will be teaching a firearms class to train more people to help with feral hog control
  - Kelly Perkey is working on acquiring a 98 acre Conservation Easement that will help connect the Russell track with the Flying X
  - 1,494 students have attended the FOB environmental education program so far this year
  - A memorandum of understanding has been set up with Candlelight ranch and a intern will be hired to facilitate science lessons/activities. Students from Candlelight Ranch will come to the refuge for the lessons/activities
3. Membership: Ruth Lyons -At Songbird Festival, our Membership Committee sold \$160.00 in merchandise. We collected \$60.00 in donations. We have 33 memberships since March, 6 new members/4 memberships from the Picnic.
4. Trails-written report from Dan Nugent.  
Maintenance Performed
  - Rimrock Trail South Slope Tree branches and undergrowth were pruned back where the undergrowth was narrowing the trail.
  - Indiagrass Trail  
Rock steps were built into two steep areas where the trail had eroded into a gully.  
Per Jane the Trail committee is doing "Kick Ass" work. Thanks Dan!!
5. Fund raising – long range general planning on Cow Creek Corridor.
6. It was suggested that the committee develop some short term fund raising goals (measurable) and come up with a year- long fundraising plan, FOB art work is something the committee could look into selling on line.
7. Pavilion – Wayne Collins presented a revised drawing of the pavilion with a rainwater collection system. The size of the pavilion is now proposed to be 30ft x 40ft. Fred is going to contact a retired architect to see if we can get some design work on the pavilion done for free.



10. Song Bird Festival –Written report from Sharon Macut

137 attendees from 14 states, lots of volunteers, refugee staff was a great help, market place total sales on line and at the event was \$2,018. There was a profit of approximately \$10,983. Sharon did an outstanding job chairing the committee per Jane.

11. Upcoming monthly activities - Jane

Jane has been very busy organizing and planning the monthly activities and we need someone **to take over the monthly activities organization**. Upcoming events: Photo Stroll in April; Full moon bat walk in June; Longhorn Caverns tour in July, Eckert James River Bat Cave (near Mason, TX) tour in August, Full moon bat hike in September and (???) in October.

**New Business**

1. Evelyn needs help on developing a form to get information from people at public events. Ruth volunteered to help.
2. The group discussed the possibility putting a box on a kiosk at Warbler Vista to collect data from the general public. Evelyn needs data on the people who use the refugee for grant writing.
3. Jane spoke about the possibility of an advisory board for the Friends