



FOB Meeting Minutes

Meeting

Title	Friends of Balcones National Wildlife Refuge Board of Directors Meeting		
Purpose	Bi-Monthly Board Meeting		
Date	January 24, 2018	Time / Duration	5:37pm – 7:36pm
Facilitator	Jane Brunclik	Recorder	David Brady
Location	Balcones National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters		

Attendee List

Board Members	Refuge Staff
Jane Brunclik (President)	Jennifer Brown (Environmental Education Specialist)
Pat Wilkinson (Treasurer)	David Maple (Deputy Refuge Manager)
Shelby Baetz	
Fred Zagst	
Lynette Holtz	
Wayne Collins	
David Brady (Secretary) – via Skype	
Dave Bell	

Agenda

#	Topic	Responsible
1	November Meeting Minutes	Jane Brunclik
2	Treasurer's Report	Pat Wilkinson
3	Refuge Report	David Maple
4	Old Business	Jane Brunclik; Wayne Collins
5	New Business	Jane Brunclik

Minutes

Topic 1	October & November Meeting Minutes
	Pat noted that Ruth Lyon is a board member. Minutes were approved.



FOB Meeting Minutes

Topic 2	Treasurer's Report
	<p>Pat emailed the 2017 final and 2018 budgets to the board for consideration. The FOB was audited and is close to closing the books on 2017. The FOB will not have a 2018 audit as previously discussed (see September minutes, 9-20). There was discussion regarding how to allocate funds for 2018 (i.e. advertising, land purchasing, events, etc.).</p> <p>Wayne Collins made a motion to adopt the 2018 budget as presented by Pat Wilkinson. The motion was seconded by Shelby Baetz. All in favor – 8; all opposed – 0. The motion passed.</p> <p>FOB Budget Checking: \$249, 974.46 Savings: \$126,219.29</p>

Topic 3	Refuge Report
	<p>The refuge is on a Continuing Resolution until February 7 th . Who knows what will happen then, but they just hope they don't have to endure another furlough. Folks don't realize that even if they pass a Continuing Resolution to temporarily fund the government, we are prohibited from spending more than 90% of our last year's budget – reducing our funding in real terms.</p> <p>Starting to get reservations for school programs. Liberty Hill has 3 days reserved. I haven't heard yet if they need support from Friends for bus costs. Jennifer will be attending the Refuge Manager Academy during a portion of the end of school year season – so it will require some juggling.</p> <p>Jennifer has been working to screen and select RV Volunteers. One selectee is the former Washington office Visitor Services Chief. Dennis Pritchert will be reporting in April.</p> <p>Lots of fire activity. Part of the crew is detailed to the wildfire west of Ft. Worth at the present time. Part are at Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge doing prescribed burns. The refuge entered into an agreement with Ft. Hood to conduct their prescribed burning – and hired a temporary firefighter to coordinate that – as well as several seasonal firefighters to support prescribed burning there and elsewhere.</p> <p>A contractor will be installing fiberoptic cable the first week of February to improve refuge internet speed and telephone service. They found out that no matter how</p>



FOB Meeting Minutes

	<p>much improvement to refuge infrastructure to speed things up – all data communications are routed through a server in Denver and governed to no more than 5 mbps. So that will be the limiting factor.</p> <p>The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) turn lane project is back on – scheduled to begin February 1st or 2nd . They inquired of TXDot about shutting down the highway for construction on the July 4th weekend and got a resounding NO! No firm dates yet.</p> <p>Working on a Turkey Hunt for this spring. Target audience is Wounded Warrior type. Limited in scope during the first year. Working with National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and Candlelight Ranch.</p> <p>Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta sorority contacted us regarding a refuge visit in the spring. These organizations have a national MOU with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Their previous visit to the refuge was somewhat dampened by a sudden thunderstorm.</p>
Topic 4	Old Business
	<p>Doeskin Shelter (ongoing)</p> <p>Wayne Collins provided an update on the bidding process for the proposed amphitheater at the Doeskin tract. The following bid is from Metal Mart in Burnet, TX.</p> <p>Materials - \$5,741 Labor/Assembly - \$5,500 Pier Foundations - \$5,400 Engineering Fees - \$950 *Equipment Rental - \$1,000</p> <p>*Equipment rental fee is for a crane to erect the structure without moving the cemented benches currently in the amphitheater location. Jane Brunclik is looking into how the benches were installed to see whether it would be possible to remove the benches without equipment.</p> <p>Total: \$18,591 or \$17,591 (with benches removed, sans equipment rental).</p> <p>2017 FOB Goals</p>



FOB Meeting Minutes

Landherr Tract

- FOB Board voted unanimously in September to pay \$1,800 for the Ecological Services land survey.

Land Acquisition

- No new developments and/or opportunities in land acquisition.

Education

- Candlelight Ranch successfully brought in... **Lynette, do you have any statistics/demographics relevant to the refuge you'd like to include for Candlelight or for refuge education programs?**

Outreach

- Jane Brunclik presented to multiple groups regarding the refuge.
- Kelly presented to multiple groups regarding the refuge.
- Jennifer presented to multiple groups regarding the refuge.

Special Events

- Refuge Roundup in October '17 was a big success with FOB providing funding for the live raptor show and providing volunteers to staff the event.
- Annual FOB meeting in October at the Doeskin Ranch was well attended with presentations by Jennifer Brown and Kelly Purkey.
- Monthly activities for the membership (trail work, CBC, Candlelight Ranch tour) have been popular and successful.

Public Relations

- Still no public relations chair.
- Members, particularly board members should have a refuge speech for formal and informal contacts.

Interpreter – Agents of Discovery

- Educational mobile gaming platform that uses augmented reality to get youth active. Applied for the app and waiting to hear back on selection.

Trails

- Goal of 5-10 new or extended trail miles (not met in 2017)
- Kelly and the refuge are working on potential locations. When selections are made, public scoping process will follow.



FOB Meeting Minutes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan Nugent has done a great job of successfully leading trail maintenance on the refuge, particularly on the Doeskin tract. <p>Peaceful Springs Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing project - Water bars have been improved, but road grade to pond is still very steep. <p>Open Refuge to More People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing <p>Increase Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 154 memberships - 215 members
Topic 5	New Business
	<p>2018 FOB Goals</p> <p>Land Acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with refuge if land acquisition opportunities arise. - Plan more refuge neighbor events (i.e. weenie roast, tours, programs, etc.). <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to work with the refuge, Candlelight Ranch, and the master naturalists to provide educational programming for youth groups. <p>Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to provide presentations about the refuge to interested groups. - Members to act as ambassadors for the refuge. - Refuge is working with a workforce recruiter to connect with a wider audience through churches, clubs, nonprofits, and other organizations. <p>Special Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning to assist the next refuge roundup. - Planning to continue monthly activities for the membership. - Would like more member meetings, i.e. weenie roasts, guided tours, fundraising events, etc.



FOB Meeting Minutes

	<p>Public Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Search for a public relations chair. - Continue to search out opportunities and new avenues to advertise the refuge. <p>Interpreter – Agents of Discovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waiting to hear back from the selection process. - Assist the refuge with implementation of the app if needed. <p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue monthly trail work on accessible portions of the refuge. - Wait to hear from the refuge on potential extensions or new sections of trail. <p>Peaceful Springs Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider opportunities (grants, fundraisers) that could contribute to improving road access in peaceful springs. <p>Easements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the refuge in building relationships with refuge neighbors. - Consider the different motivations for/against conservation easements and work with the refuge to positively contribute without interfering in relationship building. - Have a presentation on conservation easements at a FOB Board meeting. <p>Bird Blind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research a location on the refuge (considering Doeskin).
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Meeting Adjourned - 7:16pm

Future BOD Meeting Schedule

Date	Time	Location	Facilitator / Recorder
3/21/2018	5:30	BCNWR Headquarters	Jane Brunclik / David Brady