

## MINUTES OF THE 01/17/11 BOARD MEETING

Present: Beverly Allen, John Hucksteadt, Ward Miller, Hal Livings, Maggie Livings, Linda Ross, Darlene Stewart, Glenn Thompson

President Beverly Allen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

The minutes of the 11/15/10 board meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer Hal Livings reported that the 2010 fourth quarter budget report was still in preparation, so he was unable to present a summary of the past year. However, he submitted a statement of balance sheet comparing 2009 and 2010 assets and liabilities. The balance sheet was accepted as presented.

Projected expenses discussed included those for the gardens maintained by the Chapter and for the 2010 Christmas party at the Kairos Celebration Barn.

A proposed budget will be sent to board members as soon as it is available.

President Allen reminded board members to use the proper state form when purchasing items for the Chapter to avoid paying state sales tax.

President Allen, Treasurer Livings, and Secretary Thompson are authorized to write checks for the Chapter.

Vice-President Ward Miller distributed a calendar of programs planned for 2011 meetings of the general membership. This was discussed at length and several changes and additions were suggested. The calendar includes a number of field trips and other activities. Because of these, no meetings are planned for April, September, or November. This calendar will be posted on the website. President Allen indicated that she does not plan to have a board meeting each month; she will call a meeting when the need arises.

Jane Crone will serve as Field Trip Coordinator in 2011.

The Wildscapes Workshop is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>; the Methodist Church is reserved for this date. President Allen will be Chairperson in charge of planning the workshop; Secretary Thompson volunteered to handle registrations. Wrap-up information is needed from 2010.

Secretary Thompson asked board members to give him materials of interest for the Chapter's Archives.

Membership Director Darlene Stewart indicated that the Chapter has 133-135 current members. Members are reminded to renew their memberships; if a month goes by without a response, they are sent a second reminder. If this fails to illicit a response, they are dropped from the membership roster.

In 2010, a tea for new members was held in a member's home. After discussion, it was decided that a reception for new members will be scheduled at 6:15 p.m. in the Historical Society Social Hall before the regular monthly meetings in March and October. The Chapter will provide coffee and tea and the membership will be asked to bring desserts. Members will be asked to bring acquaintances to this reception to acquaint them with the Chapter and its activities. President Allen and Director Stewart will be in charge of planning and publicizing this event.

Gardens Director Maggie Livings reported that planning continues for the layout of plants at the Pioneer Museum and that she has been pleased with the turnout at work days. An individual is needed to take charge of the Lipe Garden. Tom Hines was suggested as someone to assist with the garden. A suggestion was made that a separate schedule of workdays be prepared and placed on the website.

One of the proposed budget expenses is for a sign at the Lipe Garden, facing the highway. Peggy Benson will be contacted to obtain her opinion as to whether or not a comparable sign is needed for the garden at the Good Samaritan Center.

Linda Ross, Director of Youth Involvement and Community Outreach, reported on plans for activities at the Boys and Girls Club; one of these is weaving. Publicity regarding these activities will be provided to the public schools.

The status of members' classes in 2011 is uncertain. Also, it is not known if Joyce Studer will continue to work with these.

The Chapter owns four computers for use with outreach programs; at present, these are stored in the State Office. Webmaster John Hucksteadt was authorized to move Photoshop Elements from one of these machines to use with the Chapter's website.

President Allen, Vice-President Miller and Webmaster John Hucksteadt attended a recent meeting of the NPSOT State Board of Directors. They reported that a campaign has been undertaken to raise \$200,000; each Chapter will be asked for a contribution. Part of this money will be used to employ an Executive Director. State President Lonnie Childs will be invited to explain this initiative at meetings of the Board and the general membership.

President Allen discussed activity by lobbyists employed by nurseries and other commercial firms dealing with plants to revise the state's list of invasive plants.

President Allen indicated that State Secretary Pam Middleton is not employed directly by NPSOT as an employee. She is an employee of Middleton Marketing, which is the firm contracted by NPSOT to fill the State Secretary's position.

President Allen indicated that the State Board had discussed changing the software used for the website; however, the proposed program, WordPress, was deemed unsatisfactory and no action was taken.

The Chapter does not have a Newsletter Editor. Webmaster Hucksteadt suggested that a brief reminder of scheduled events and chapter activity be sent to the membership each month, and that more extensive information be provided on the website. It was pointed out that only five members out of the current membership of 133 do not have computers, and print copies of the monthly report could be sent to these members via the regular postal service. All but two of the members with computers have displayed a willingness to provide their email addresses; an effort will be made to obtain the remaining two addresses.

The Board approved a motion authorizing John Hucksteadt to purchase a video projector for the Chapter, the amount not to exceed \$900.00.

President Allen reported that she had been informed that the Kerrville Chapter is planning to continue the NICE program and have designated two members to work with that program. The Fredericksburg Chapter needs to identify two representatives to coordinate local NICE activities with the Kerrville people.

Second term directors and chairpersons are asked to identify individuals to work with them during the year so that there will be continuity during the transition from 2011 to 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn Thompson, Secretary

Note: The above minutes are tentative pending approval by the Board at the February meeting.