

**Balcones Canyonlands TXMN**

**Board of Directors**

**December 21, 2020**

**Call to order at 7:05 pm via WEBEX**

**Attendance:** Larry Root, Gene Janulis, Julian Yates, Sheila Endres, Shayla Fleshman, Sheila Putnam, Kelly Kaye, Brenda Foss, Tania Homayoun

Minutes were approved.

**Julian Yates** (speakers): The speaker for the January chapter meeting is Viviana Ricardez, VP of Texas Turtles, topic is Texas Turtles, species and preservation.

**Gene Janulis** (finance): Gene reports that the checking account has about \$7757 at the time of the meeting, with an increase of \$2,281 since the beginning of the year. THE Chapter received payment from Concordia of \$320 for their students in the program. [December Treasurer Report](#)

Gene opened a discussion of what to do with additional funds; such as scholarships. He also brought up the idea of filing for 501 (c)3 status which would help with fundraising.

Gene also discussed that it was time for yearly audit. The Audit Committee will meet virtually in January and Gene will supply them with the needed financial documentation. Much, if not all, the information is in the monthly treasurer's report.

**Sheila Endres** (2020/2021 Class): Sheila reports that according to records, about five students have not been attending class/logging training time and will probably be dropping out. Overall, the class has been going well. The speaker for the history of naturalists was ill and not able to present. Sheila reports that it has been difficult to find a replacement; however, without this session, there is still 57 hours of class time, more than enough required to certify the new class.

**Brenda Foss (Membership):** Sheila, Amy and Brenda have been approving hours in VMS and updating the database for milestones. She sent out pins but they came back for insufficient postage. It will require \$4 each for 2020 membership pins to be sent out and she is seeking more cost effective alternatives.

**Stephanie Putnam** (Diversity and Inclusion): Stephanie reports there was no meeting in December but lots of ideas moving forward. She will send out an email with an update the chapter.

An idea was floated of a volunteer buddy system on the online calendar to provide new members with

volunteer with those more experienced. The board in general really liked the idea and it will be revisited when in person volunteering resumes after COVID.

Larry mentioned that he included clarifications of guidelines for volunteering and encouraged board members to read them. The Texas Master Naturalist Program has been following the Texas A&M [AgriLife Extensions guidelines](#) since March 13, 2020.

**Julian Yates** (field trips): Due to COVID, field trips are currently not being scheduled. He is developing the speaker schedule for Chapter meetings, has many speaker contacts, and will share when complete.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30