

SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

Date of Meeting: November 25, 2012
Type of Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting
Place of Meeting: Grey Forest City Hall
Time of Meeting: 6:00 PM

- ❖ Meeting Called to Order at 6:04 PM .by Don Darst
- ❖ Recording of Board members Present – Donald Darst, Susan Beavin, Jennifer Nottingham, Storms Duthie and Ron Reinhard
Guest Present – Sue Peavy, James Swisher, Terrell and Katie Deppe (Arden Bourne solar company)
- ❖ Declaration of a Quorum - yes
- ❖ Secretary's Report - October Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve by Jennifer Nottingham, 2nd by Susan Beavin
- ❖ Financial Report – Shannan Kinsley, Grey Forest City Secretary/Treasurer – Balance on hand \$46,728, TPW submission will be made as soon as checks clear for \$13,628.42. Approximately \$3,500 in the Madla Conservancy fund and \$900 in the administrative fund. Outstanding expenses include approximately \$8000 for concrete work at entry, \$2900 for stone pillars and footing for entry gate.

Sub-Committee Status: All activities since the last Board Meeting

- * **Safety/Security** – no report
- * **Biological Management** – see notes under Garden Committee Update
- * **Historical – Susan Beavin** – Susan will pull the inspection report done earlier by the City Inspector and we will start discussing what work needs to be done to the historical buildings on the property. It was agreed that this work may not need to be completed before the opening but some things could be addressed soon.
- * **Fundraising – Dr. Frank Madla** – The “Ribbon Cutting” opening is tentatively scheduled for January 26th. In addition to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Grey Forest residents, Present and Past Board Members, Grey Forest City Council and Grey Forest Utilities; each board member should be gathering names and addresses of dignitaries and others that should be invited. These should be brought to the December meeting.
- * **Earth Science – Ron Green** – no report at this meeting
- * **Project Planning Status Report – Don Darst.** We received a brief introduction to solar alternatives by Terrell and Katie Deppe from Arden Bourne Inc. The national average for solar is \$7-9 per watt of electricity, the estimated average for Arden Bourne is \$6.50 per watt. Based on the structure and apparent electrical need at the Madla Natural Area they estimate somewhere between \$18,000 and \$24,000 for a Stand Alone – off the grid system giving us 25-30 amp service. Three 3’x4’ panels would be needed and should be on the South Side of the building or free standing for Southern exposure. Sun Extender batteries are \$300 each; we would need 3-4 to keep security lights on. They have an 8-15 year life time. The solar panels are USA manufactured with a 25 year warranty. The Inverters are German made and are 95-98% efficient. The system can be remotely monitored over the internet. Insurance is recommended and usually has a \$100 deductible per panel. They will look into any discounts that may be offered by manufacturers, come up with a written estimate and call Don Darst, project manager with results. Solar lighting will be on the December

Agenda for the Park Board.

* **Garden Committee Update – Storms Duthie** The tree that was planted appears to not be healthy and will be pulled out according to the Grey Forest Arborist, Laurie Hawkins. Jennifer Nottingham brought up the issue of the Malta Thistle and was wondering an herbicide could be used to eradicate it. She also mentioned the possibility of a control burn. She will check with Laurie Hawkins to see if either of these methods would help in the eradication of the Malta Thistle. A concern was raised about having control burn before the opening in January. It was agreed that we could meet for a quick meeting to cover agenda items that would need to be addressed prior to the December regularly scheduled meeting.

* **Trails Committee** – this is a new sub-committee that will start reporting at each meeting beginning in December. Volunteers for this committee include Ron Green, Jennifer Nottingham, Susan Beavin and Laurie Hawkins. The approximate length of each trail has been documented by Jen and Laurie. It was suggested that this committee come up with some possible descriptive names for the trails and present to the Board at the next meeting so that a decision can be made. Rodney Madla will be making our signs. .

Discuss and take action (if necessary) on the following topics:

(This notice is posted pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act -Texas Government Code 551)

1. Old Business:

- a. Review and act on proposal by James Swisher in regard to the concrete work at entry – specifics and costs. James reviewed drawing presented to him earlier – points of clarification included adding a curb flair, that there is 65 foot of road frontage, the swell is 5’ wide going up toward the road, the paved area will be level from post to post where gate will hang.. We will provide the pipe to James for posts (ask Chief Rutledge about pipe on premises). He will be using #4 rebar. He recommends sheet flow for water going toward the right side of the drive. The concrete will have a coffee finish, we will use the existing gate. Removal of 3 Hackberries may be necessary. Motion was made by Susan Beavin and Seconded by Storms Duthie to move forward with the bid from James Swisher of \$7,977, approved by all present. The time frame for the work to begin is mid December earliest to Early January latest, most likely will be the week between Christmas and New Years. Work should take one week to complete. Any traffic in and out of the area during construction should be coordinated with James.
- b. Review and act on estimate from Rick Stone for rock work to be done at entry – Don Darst will draw up a quick plan for Rick and discuss his plans based on his bid of \$2,875. Jennifer Nottingham made a motion to approve up to \$4,000 to complete the stone work to the boards’ specifications, seconded by Susan Beavin and approved unanimously.

2. New Business:

- a. Discuss and act on Rain Catchments at Pavilion Site – carry over to December meeting time, investigate various local companies and obtain information. If possible, identify one company to make a brief presentation to the board – coordinate this with the Project Planner – Don Darst..
- b. Discuss and act on naming of trails – Trail committee will make recommendations to the Board at the December meeting

❖ Adjournment – 8:13pm. Motion by Susan Beavin, second by Storms Duthie.