

Senator Frank L. Madla, Jr. Natural Area Board of Directors Meeting

Date of meeting – May 26, 2013 – 6pm

Type of meeting – Board of Directors

Place of Meeting - Grey Forest City Hall

Meeting called to order - Ron Green at 6:11pm

Recording of Members Present – Ron Green, Don Darst, Storms Duthie, Susan Beavin, Jennifer Nottingham, Kyle Cunningham

Declaration of a Quorum - yes

Secretary's Report – Motion to approve as presented by Jennifer Nottingham, 2nd by Susan Beavin

Financial Report – Current balance of \$47,714.16 which includes most recent TPW reimbursement of \$17,040.72. Next TPW submission will also include: \$5,322.65 in expenditures, \$5,850.70 in volunteer hours and \$1238 in equipment plus \$1,158 donation for tent at opening. Ron Green presented a check for the Jon Allan trail in the amount of \$6,921.56.

Subcommittee Reports:

Safety/Security – Fire Department conducted a preliminary emergency preparedness walk through the natural area. Their letter attached, they reported that there are some juniper stumps in the various walking trails that should be removed. They would also like to see the Zone #s added back to the map for ease in rescue work. They also suggested some signage additions/changes. It was suggested that in lieu of a fence at the cliff area, a sign be made to warn "Proceed at your own Peril"

Biological Management – Jen is addressing the Malta Thistle in the center island by the driveway. Jen will also check with the police chief on the status of the security cameras that were being ordered. Laurie Hawkins may have completed the GCW survey, Linda D will contact her to see if this report is complete.

Historical – Susan Beavin mentioned that Rancho Diana will be having someone staying onsite according to Jayne Neal. The board thinks this would an appropriate goal for the Madla Natural Area house at some point in the future. Storms will lead the research of obtaining estimates on the electrical updates needed, water, furnace, termite damage, water heater, etc. in order to make the house inhabitable. It was suggested that a rent should be paid and the renter would be responsible for their utilities.

Susan is also working on the historical information to be included on the trail map.

Fundraising – no report – Linda Darst will follow up with Shannan to see if the 2 plaques were ordered in memory of Jack Nottingham and Don Taylor. We also need to know if installation is included in the cost, may need to follow up with Rick Stone regarding inseting the plaque in the stone boulder.

Earth Science – Ron Green reported work that is being done with the Edward Aquifer Authority along Helotes Creek.

Trails Committee – Jennifer Nottingham will follow up with Frank and Rodney Madla on the

status of additional signage needed. The TPW sign will need to be installed before the TPW final walk through proposed in June by TPW, date and time needs to be confirmed.

Landscape Committee – Jennifer presented a proposal to remove the remaining mulch pile by Shane Reddout and Robert McConnaughay for \$3,500. After a discussion of the Butterfly Garden proposal, a motion was made by Jennifer Nottingham and seconded by Ron Green to table the project. All approved. There is a hackberry at the entrance that needs to be removed, also some dirt needs to be relocated – Chris Mikels was unable to do this with the city tractor, Storms will ask Rodney if it can be done with his skid loader.

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. Discuss and act on ongoing maintenance items for the Natural Area

Maintenance responsibility – volunteers vs City – The police chief is retiring on July 1st, 2013. There will be a reception in his honor on June 30th in the afternoon prior to our regularly scheduled board meeting. The board voted to buy a plaque in honor of Chief Rutledge to be presented at his reception. Coordination of ongoing maintenance will need to be discussed with the mayor and new police chief regarding setting guidelines for the maintenance responsibility and the role of public works.

b. TPW reimbursement deadline for submission July 15, 2013

Jennifer will talk with Ron Reinhard on the discussion with GFU regarding buying the necessary supplies to run the electrical.

2. New Business:

a. Discuss & act on proposed projects –

Signage for Natural Area rules – Susan Beavin sent out a document regarding signage for the park rules to be posted near the entry and near the pavilion. She will attend the Council Meeting this Tuesday to answer any questions they may have regarding the rules. It is unknown if Council will need to pass an ordinance to enforce the rules for the natural area. Linda D will check with Shannan to see if the city attorney has given any input to this.

Water Catchment – Storms is looking into water catchment, cost has been pretty high. Don Darst will check with the Cibilo Nature Center on the the source for their water catchment system.

Picnic Tables - Don will also speak with Ranel at GFU on the cost of two picnic table/bench setups for the pavilion.

Trail Map – Ron Green is in contact with David regarding the final information for the trail map. It was decided that the blazes should have initial on them and will be stabled to cash juniper trees or placed on a post. Ron Green will check with Roger Solar regarding trail measurements in order to include the trail lengths and difficulty on the trail maps. Jennifer reported that the plans for “Millies Place” on the Jon Allan trail may have to be revisited. It may be better to place two wooden benches in the area rather that follow the previous plan.

The Board will be meeting in one week – Sunday, June 2nd, 6pm at City Hall.

**Adjourned – Motion to adjourn by Kyle Cunningham, Second by Jennifer Nottingham,
adjourned at 7:20pm**