

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

Date of Meeting: October 30, 2016

Type of Meeting: Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Place of Meeting: Grey Forest City Hall

Time of Meeting: 6:00 PM.

- ❖ Call to Order – Ron Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- ❖ Recording of Board – Ron Green, John Chaffee, Susan Beavin, Storms Duthie, Jennifer Nottingham, Ron Reinhard, Matt Baker and Bill Hoover.
- ❖ Declaration of a Quorum – a quorum was present
- ❖ Secretary's Minutes of 25 September 16 were approved as distributed.
- ❖ Financial Report – Briefly discussed 2016-17 budget. Confirmed that the annual operating budget is under \$5000, and the Spring Fundraiser brings in these operating funds.
- ❖ Conservancy Report (Bylaws, Board, etc.) – Ron R. read an email from Don Darst who addressed several items, including: Frank Madla hopes to be more available after November; Conservancy Board is Donald Darst-President, Brenda Reinhard-Treasurer, Linda Darst-Secretary, Frank Madla-Vice President; Star Gazing funds totaled \$172.07 after credit card fees, and a check will be written to the City for this amount; Bank balance is \$3363.67.

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. Reports

- Biological Management – Need for current generator repair was discussed. Ron R said the City will try to make sure it's functional and the timer is set for regular recharge. Option of getting a spare battery was discussed. A section of electrical plugs in the pavilion need to be made functional.
- Cottage Committee – Storms reported extermination was performed. He also expects 14-15 people from United Methodist to work in and around the cottage and the Jon Allan Trail on Nov. 13. He reports the picnic table is falling apart and he saw people camping in the area around the cottage. He confirmed that he sends press releases for several organizations' monthly calendars, posting volunteer days at Madla.
- Landscape – See discussion on ground cover in Bio. Mgt. above. Jen said hoses are working well.
- Trails – Jen and Susan walked with Matt's son Chandler to review trail signage, etc. They were grateful and complimentary and asked Matt to see if Chandler would be available to help on the trail committee. Discussion was held about maintenance of cedar signs being an issue and options. Storms noted Government Canyon's metal signs, Susan noted the green/red dot system. Follow-up will entail pursuing assistance and/or suggestions from the Govt. Canyon's Friends board. Matt asked to consider being "adopted" as "little sister" by them. Ron G anticipates reviewing with a consultant on site re: the potential of a couple of trail bridge(s) next week. He has asked Rick Clar to head an Engineering Committee to oversee the bridge(s) project, if approved.
- Technical – John noted that Paypal worked fine for Star Party tickets purchased online, and that he will remove the Star Party notice. The need to get security cameras functional again was discussed, as well as the effectiveness of their specific function and that they have been vandalized in the past. Matt recommended researching cost and viability of more secure cameras, and he stated his concern for the legal requirements. Ron R will ask Mitch to check the cameras and to come to the next Board meeting to report on them.

2. New Business

- Ron R presented and read William Mallant's emails of Oct. 17 to the City and of Oct. 22 to the City and the Madla Board re: his concern about the condition of the Park. Discussion was held. Most of Mr. Mallant's concerns have been discussed and plans have been put into place to address the issues. The need for additional volunteer help was discussed. It was confirmed that there are no current grants. Ron R will write a 2nd reply to Mr. Mallant.
- Star Party was a success with approximately 50 people attending. Danielle Rappaport, Public Programs Coord. of the SA Astronomical Assoc., was very positive about their participation and would be interested in participating next year. John will contact her about "penciling in" an event Oct. 2017. Elaine will write thank-you's to Frank Madla for purchasing drinks, Donna Gottwald for purchasing food and Danielle Rappaport for SAAA's excellent work.
- Jen requested that more frequent work days are needed and to try initially for monthly work days. The 3rd Saturday of each month was chosen. Jen will coordinate and oversee a prescribed burn on Janu 21, 2017. Jen requested \$100 to purchase seeds or other needs for ground cover around Pavilion for the work day in November. Susan made a motion to approve Jen to spend \$100 as requested, Bill seconded.
- Matt is looking into an Air Force Squadron potentially "adopting" Madla as a community work project.

- Discussion held considering options for Helotes-based school outreach programs. Elaine will ask Holly Templeton about contacts at O'Connor High and Northside ISD, considering ecology, biology or other environmentally-related clubs or classes that may be interested in working with or at Madla. It was also discussed that Susan Darst would be encouraged to coordinate more with Madla for GFCC events.
- 2017 goals were discussed: Hiker's pavilion, slab walk [Storms has started process getting bids]; 2nd Annual Star Party in Oct.; Spring fundraiser; monthly work days for at least a few months to improve overall condition of area around pavilion and of trails; look for more groups to adopt Madla as community work project, and more volunteers.

3. Next Agenda

- Update on potential Helotes school outreach and potential Air Force Squadron assistance
- Website discussion
- Mitch [with City] to report on security cameras

Adjournment - There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Elaine Daniel, Secretary

The Board may close the Meeting and hold an Executive Session pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, which permits closed meetings pursuant to Section 551.071 for the purposes of consulting with its attorney, Section 551.072 – deliberating about real property, Section 551.073 – deliberating about gifts and donations, Section 551.074 – deliberating about personnel matters, Section 551.075 – deliberating contracts and Section 551.076 – deliberating about security devices, to discuss matters as Executive Session matters in this agenda.