

**SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
ESD 8, 18515 SCENIC LOOP RD, GREY FOREST TX 78023  
AUGUST 17, 2021, at 6:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

- I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON at 6:01 PM
- II. RECORDING OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT- Kelly Dawson, Susan Beavin, Anne McCarthy, Jen Nottingham, Kate Feist, Storms Duthie, and Chris Porter via Googlemeet.com
- III. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM
- IV. PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS - none
- V. DISCUSS AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING'S MINUTES- the July 20, 2021 minutes were approved without amendments.
- VI. FINANCIAL REPORT- A question was raised as to whether the Apple Pest Control bill is being paid by the Conservancy or the City of Grey Forest. Kelly advised, to date, she hasn't paid anything. Storms advised the bill should go to the city because Apple is also servicing city hall and the fire station in addition to the park. Jen advised, that in the past, at the end of the fiscal year, the city notified the Conservancy of the amount to be paid to the City for the new fiscal year. In the future, the City will notify the Conservancy of the Madla expenses to be reimbursed on a quarterly basis.  
  
Jen provided a copy of the Madla-related Grey Forest city budget for 2021-2022. She advised she will be attending the city's budget meeting on Friday, August 20th and will ask that a monthly statement be provided to the park board. Susan advised her figures show the annual expenses have been approximately \$3,000 for each of the last few years.
- VII. CONSERVANCY REPORT- Kelly states the current bank balance is \$7,472.64.
- VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS- 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. Biological and Landscape Management- Jen states Jay mowed some areas that aren't customarily mowed. Jay has not yet installed the signs because, he stated, he was waiting for the rest of the posts to be set. Jen proposes using heavy-duty stands but Storms advised he believes those cost \$100 each, which members agreed is out of the budget. Storms advised he will double-check the cost of the stands. Jen mentioned she and Petra removed the tree that was mentioned in the previous month's minutes. She also noted a tree at East Bend that appears unhealthy and that, given the season, it should be cut during the work session this coming Saturday and that black paint will be needed. A cedar tree at Warbler Way and the amphitheater is hanging like a broken hinge and needs to be cut down.  
Anne advised an acquaintance is studying native plants versus invasive plants and she will invite this person to tour the

- park. She also states her school is reinstating volunteer service hours and she will explore the possibility of students performing volunteer service at the park. Jen questioned whether waiver forms would need to be completed. Kate advised the park does have a liability waiver form available.
2. Cottage Committee – Storms states he has ordered propane but hasn't heard back yet. Kate advised she cleaned the cottage approximately 1 month ago.
  3. Trails Committee- see section 1 above
  4. Communications Committee – Anne advised, since July 21<sup>st</sup>, the payment app was malfunctioning and was sending out permits without having received payment. The permits will be discernable because the payment method section will say “test”. She determined the system doesn't currently accept Square and, therefore, she will convert to another method. She anticipates having this completed within a week's time. The website's payment system is currently disabled and a notice is posted advising of the alternate method of obtaining a permit.
  5. City Police Department – nothing to report
  6. City Public Works – see section 1 above. Jen advised the city staff also trimmed weeds around the boulders.

#### IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss initiating the search for a permanent board secretary- Storms asked whether the position can be advertised. Jen proposed placing a notice on the Madla website and asking the city to place a notice on the marquee. Anne suggested she may know someone who is tech-savvy and may be able to serve as secretary; she will reach out and then further advise the board.

#### X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Resume fundraising discussion- Anne advised she is now the moderator of the Facebook page and can now respond to questions sent via Facebook. Jen mentioned that Debbie Swisher, who currently moderates the Grey Forest Open Studios Facebook page, had previously offered to assist with the Madla Facebook page's online auction. Jen states she has the pictures of all items, bid sheets, etc. but the board needs assistance with uploading the information online. Jen advised she will contact Debbie to see what assistance she can provide.

Storms states he has reached out to La Hacienda restaurant regarding participation in Stuart Birnbaum's future speech and fundraiser event; he hasn't yet heard back.

2. Discuss progress of cave gate- Storms advised he has paid the deposit and the gate should be completed in approximately 2 weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Meeting Minutes documented by María Ammerman

Meeting Minutes Approved by Chairperson:

