



SENATOR FRANK L. MADLA, JR. NATURAL AREA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ESD 8, 18515 SCENIC LOOP RD, GREY FOREST TX 78023

APRIL 20, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON- at 6:01 PM

II. RECORDING OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT- Jennifer Nottingham, Susan Beavin, Storms Duthie, Kelly Dawley. Also in attendance: Ron Green, Conservancy Chair, and Nettie and Stuart Birnbaum

III. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

IV. PRESENTATIONS BY CITIZENS AND VISITORS: Persons who desire to address the Senator Frank L. Madla Jr Natural Area Board of Directors will be received at this time. Comments by members of the public are limited to three (3) minutes for any one speaker. Speakers must conduct themselves in a civil manner. In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the board cannot deliberate or take action on items not listed on the meeting agenda.

V. DISCUSS AND ACT ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jan. 19, 2021, Feb. 2, 2021, and March 16, 2021 -- Storms Duthie approved all minutes as amended

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT- Kelly Dawley advised the current conservancy account balance is \$ 8217.54. There was no city financial report available.

VII. CONSERVANCY REPORT – Ron Green, Conservancy Chair, presented a \$500 donation from Raba-Kisner Inc. from 2020.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

IX. 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 - Susan Beavin states she recently used her new mini-chainsaw to remove some Ligustrum; the mini-chain saw worked great. Jennifer Nottingham states she, Susan Beavin, and Petra Osterov spent 2 hours at the park on Saturday, spraying poison oak with a solution of saltwater, heavy duty vinegar and soap. They also used orange spray-paint to mark some potential trip hazards. This morning, volunteer Petra Osterov, Susan Beavin, and Jennifer Nottingham cut (with Susan's new mini chainsaw, which worked very well) 3 more Ligustrum and discussed removing an Ashe Juniper.

Cottage Committee- Storms Duthie advised the septic system has been repaired, the tank was drained, and the lid was sealed. Two of the septic tanks were empty, so they required refilling. The septic repair cost \$400 which is reflected in the above account balance.

2. Trails Committee- Jennifer Nottingham states she has received favorable comments about the new signage. Chris Porter, who joined the meeting electronically, mentioned the trails are seeing more use and he doesn't see any areas that may require cement enforcement. He foresees parking being a challenge if increased use continues. Chris Porter also suggested thinking about forming a policy for usage after wet weather has occurred. Jennifer Nottingham states she has spoken with the Edwards Aquifer Authority who has advised it is at the board's discretion when to close the park. Edwards Aquifer Authority and Texas Parks and Wildlife recently performed their annual park inspection and made recommendations about adding to the current metal grate, as water seepage into the cave has eroded under it and the rock barrier can easily be removed. Storms Duthie knows of a welder on Menchaca Rd. and will contact them.

3. Communications Committee- no members were present

4. City Police Department- Jennifer Nottingham recently talked to some park visitors who were out in the meadow. She plans to meet with Grey Forest Police Department tomorrow to walk the park and to identify areas which are off-limits, such as the meadow.

5. City Public Works- Jennifer Nottingham expressed continued appreciation for the installation of the trail markers. Also, public works adjusted the placement of some boulders to accommodate emergency vehicles.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Trail signs- Jennifer Nottingham advised proposed sign locations can be pre-marked with spray paint. She also advised T-posts need to be purchased; Storms Duthie advised the funds are available.

2. Fundraising/Virtual fundraiser:

Stuart Birnbaum presented information regarding virtual fundraising. He is aware of a past San Antonio Museum of Art event where a local participating restaurant offered box lunches for participants who would then view a Zoom presentation from home. Stuart Birnbaum advised he has a Zoom account which can accommodate up to 100 participants. Stuart has given live interactive presentations about climate change and about hypothetical situations in which mass groups effect positive climate change for example, by driving electric cars, or planting trees. Fundraising would be on two-tier level, with a higher fee being charged for those who want to purchase the box lunch. Stuart Birnbaum states he can create the Zoom meeting and enroll participants. The topic will be further discussed at the next board meeting.

Park volunteer Nettie Birnbaum mentioned she recently approached a photographer and her clients; the photographer had a photography permit and the clients were very complimentary about the park's beauty. Nettie Birnbaum thought it would be a good idea to hand out business cards with information on how visitors can make donations to the park.

Susan Beavin reminded the board that donated gala supplies are still being stored in the cottage and at her house. An online auction was mentioned again. It will be placed on next month's agenda.

3. Septic Repair – see Cottage Committee comments above

4. Boulder thank you- Jennifer Nottingham advised the board will send a thank you note to GFU and a thank you photo plaque to Vulcan. Storms and Jen will work on this.

5. 2021-2023 BOD update – Chris Porter, a past board member, has expressed interest in being reinstated to the board. Storms Duthie moved to accept Chris Porter's reinstatement. Susan Beavin seconded the motion. The board unanimously agreed. Jen will take recommendations (Chris Porter, Susan Beavin, Storms Duthie) to Council.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Goals for next 6 months- Storms Duthie proposed replacement or refinishing of the entrance sign. The rain barrel is damaged again and the pavilion gutters are rotting. The funding and purchase of an additional picnic table, which was to be a donation from a citizen, was never finalized. Jennifer

Nottingham suggested adding a motor to the Scenic Loop gate. Jennifer Nottingham recalls giving information to the former Grey Forest city secretary so she will ask the new secretary if that information is somewhere at city hall. Storms Duthie believes that would cost \$4000 for a new gate, solar panel, openers, keypad, etc. Storms Duthie states the Eagle Scout ceremony was extremely well attended last week. Approximately 50 cars were inside the park with another 16 cars outside the park. Some of this number included park guests. Another event will take place at the pavilion on May 15th; 35 people are expected and will be urged to carpool.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes documented by María Ammerman

Meeting Minutes Approved by Chairperson:

Storms Duthie