

Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve Minutes

February 20, 2018

Attending: Annabelle Corboy, Grace Darling, Lynn Healy, Jan Miller, Michael Smith

Minutes – January, 2018 were approved.

Financial Report – No Deposits. Expense: \$300.00 planting prep; seed purchase for Pollinator field, and for Retirement gift for Jay Falgout. Current balance on 02/20/208 is \$7917.31

Continued Topics –

Review of past month's activities

02/02 & 02/04 – Pollinator Project – Jan reported that multiple species wildflowers were planted, covering the remaining (southern) portion of the pollinator site.

02/07 – Birding program – Jim Frisinger and Walter Berk presented the partnership with city of Kennedale to their Parks and Recreation Board, requesting support for continuing the program. They were supportive in principle, but could not confirm provision of a meeting site without further discussion with city staff.. Final decision may be made at next Parks Board meeting.

02/15 – Retirement Luncheon for Jay Falgout – This was well attended and enjoyed. Lynn and Annabelle went later to Jay's office to present the gift from the Friends, a serving tray with multiple photos of the Preserve.

02/17 – Great Backyard Bird Count – Jan reported that there were 5 attendees and 28 species were sighted.

Project Updates –

Aquatics – no report

Restoration / invasives –

Monarch host plant project - Annabelle reported that she has submitted a grant application to Monarch Watch. They provide flats of several species of Milkweed, recipient pays shipping. She is optimistic that Friends project meets the criteria. If selected, we will receive plants in April with goal of May planting.

Pollinator project –

Installation – The next step should be sowing of seed balls of mixed native wildflowers to ensure good coverage. Jan reported that Ann Knudsen has agreed to assist with seed ball preparation. Lynn suggested inviting Friendship Academy or a Girl Scout troop to work with us on this project, as a chance to meet Friends' goal of public education and to involve more volunteers. She will contact Friendship to determine their interest and to get available dates. Milkweed pots previously harvested at Bluestem Nursery should also be transplanted soon.

Fence – Annabelle reported that, according to Jay, funds are in 2018 budget for a split rail fence on the Bowman Springs perimeter of the pollinator site. This should be completed in the spring.

John Snowden bid – Jan reported that John re-submitted bid, much of which includes bare root plants. These plants must be planted while dormant and should be planted within 2 days of digging. With volunteer schedules, spring weather, and John's schedule restraints, coordinating might create a logistics issue. Jan will continue to work with John on what the best plan is & how to manage it.

Trails –

Kiosk completion is still pending APRD action. Jan will contact Phillip Rogers by email for update on current timeline for completion.

S&S project is pending response from Friends, including site map. It was agreed that this could be delayed until after the current Pollinator Field projects are complete, as those projects are more time sensitive at this point.

Lynn reported that Jay mentioned that APRD staff plans for the Big Event include completion of trail from Trail head to the first split and obstruction of rogue trails.

Outreach-

Birding - The next Birding session at the preserve will be on 3/24 at 8am.

Historic Tree – no update

Organization –

Programs - Annabelle reviewed program schedule ideas for 2018. Program in April is Kaleigh Madeiros, Scat & Tracks, What Animals Leave Behind. Lynn suggested an INat refresher in March in preparation for the City Nature Challenge.

EarthDay TX grant – Participation for 2018 is undecided.

APRD & Friends groups – Kevin Donovan has met again with APRD Director Lemuel Randolph to encourage volunteer outreach activities, with the various Friends groups working together.

Projects – Priorities were discussed including interpretive signs at the first trail split; continued trail development (see comment above regarding work with S&S); and a focus site for grass re-establishment.

New Topics –

Calendar –

3/7 - Kennedale Parks Board

3/20 – Friends meeting

3/24 – Birding at the Preserve

Meeting adjourned at 6:50.

The program, provided by Suzanne Tuttle on Prairie Restoration was well attended, informative and inspired Friends to consider a formal plan, with timelines, goals and measurement methods, for the Preserve.