

Friends of Southwest Nature Preserve Minutes

January 16, 2018

Attending: Laura Capik, Annabelle Corboy, Grace Darling, Jim Frisinger, Lynn Healy, Jan Miller,
Minutes - November, 2017 were approved.

Financial Report – No Deposits. Expense: \$581.60 to Turner Seed for Pollinator field. Current balance on 12/31/2017 is \$8846.30.

Continued Topics –

Review of past month's activities

10/28 - 4th Anniversary Celebration and Evening at the Preserve – discussion deferred

December– multiple dates – Native Grass Seed Harvest at Bluestem Nursery, including some LBS.

12/15 – Pollinator Project – Jan reported that, with the help of Molly Hollar volunteers, & MPAC volunteers, over a 6 hour work-day, multiple species of native grasses and a small sampling of wildflowers were planted, covering the northern portion (a little less than half) of the 2 acres. Four – five inches of rain fell within a week after the planting; seeds are germinating and some grasses are greening.

Project Updates –

Aquatics – no report

Restoration / invasives –

Monarch host plant project - no progress

Pollinator project – The next step is seeding the remaining portion of the field, which should be done soon. Jan requested and has received a bid from Terry Rutland, a contractor frequently used by APRD, for \$300 to prep the soil and sow red winter wheat seed before next planting day, and to roll or pack soil after planting. All present agreed this expenditure. Jan reported that a Native American order has been placed at cost of \$303.00. Milkweed pots previously harvested at Bluestem Nursery should also be transplanted soon.

John Snowden bid – Jan presented a revised bid proposed by John Snowden in response to Friends input regarding the original proposal. It was agreed that Friends would offer up to \$2500 to Snowden; that Jan have authority to approve species choices; and that a portion of that expense should include consultation and / or time for John.

Trails –

Kiosk completion is still pending APRD action. Grace reported that staff had been busy with other projects and she had agreed with them to delay this project until early 2018. She will talk with them again and report back.

S&S project is pending response from Friends, including site map.

Outreach-

Birding - Jim reported that he will address the Kennedale Parks Board on Feb 7 to ask for their support of continuing the Birding program, with the goal of offering 4 classes & walks this year as in years past. The next Birding session at the preserve will be the GBBC on 2/17 at 8am.

Historic Tree – Jim provided update on this project. Jeremy Priest, APRD forester, has provided a cookie sample, which seems indicate 250 years of age. He also measured sample of a Black Jack Oak on the bluff with an estimated age of 110 years. Jim is continuing research to identify specific historic events to include with information provided to Historical Tree Coalition.

Organization –

Programs - Annabelle presented program schedule ideas for 2018, recommending that 4 programs be on-site, and no program in Jan, July or Dec. Confirmed program for February is Susanne Tuttle, Prairie Restoration; tentative confirmation for April is Kaleigh Madeiros, Scat & Tracks. A spreadsheet of possible programs and dates was provided for review. Members present especially supported having Anita Tiller from the Mercer Arboretum to speak on the Glen Rose Yucca and how the seed bank works; a 2 hour “tree walk” led by Jeremy Priest; and US Fish & Wildlife program coordinator on Monarch habitat protection.

Jay Falgout – Grace confirmed that retirement is at end of February. Annabelle suggested a plaque or other gift presentation with photos from the preserve. Grace will contact Jay to invite him to a 'send-off / thank you' lunch. Annabelle will research gift ideas.

New Topics –

CoA Neighborhood grants – Agreed that Preserve probably does not fit this grant opportunity.

Milkweed Grant opportunity – Annabelle agreed to look at this opportunity and complete grant application if appropriate.

EarthDay grant – Laura agreed to research 2018 grant offering to determine if it fits any planned projects for the Preserve.

Calendar –

Seeding Day – TBA

2/17 GBBC 8am – 11am

2/20 – Friends meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.