

11/7/19 Minutes

Roll call - Andrea Faas, Mike Schrad, Dennis Ferraro, Dorie Stone, Karen Klein, Chris Robie, Matt Jones, Austen Hill, Tisha Johnson, Alie Mayes, Vicki Vonloh

Minutes accepted with a correction of the Winter Celebration's date to 2/8/20.

Elections and nominations within the next few weeks.

Tisha Johnson will email that the Board's nomination process is now open and Matt Jones has agreed to put a notification and a write-in tab for candidates on the website by Tues. the 12th.

Planning for Winter Celebration 2/8/20 - Matt Jones, Dorie Stone and Andrea Faas will connect by phone the week of November 11th. Experiential auction gifts, Rattlesnake tour by Dennis were discussed as changes that will be made to the silent auction.

Dennis Ferraro is no longer on Sustainability Committee with Bryce.

Budget

NET \$48,000 Half for Matt's salary the other half for operating expenses. \$6000 left in the program account that is to be used by 6/20. Revolving Account now at \$4000.

Possible payments through June 2020.

\$2000 computer switch

\$1500 mileage

Doug's salary?

\$200 Marketing for the CORE trainings (facebook)

May need more items for Junior Naturalists?

Short discussion reminding board that Maps and More takes a cut when registration payments are processed, and UNL takes a cut as well. Perhaps this money can be saved in the future.

Because UNL will be dismantling its current database management, there is a need for Matt to create a list to be reviewed at the 11/14 meeting of the most essential items for the Master Naturalist database management system.

A motion to dismiss a Master Naturalist due to a written complaint regarding code of conduct violations was proposed and it was seconded, and then approved that there would be action taken quickly and that letters be drafted to all parties involved, the Master Naturalist who violated the code of conduct, the person who made the complaint, and Partners. Mike Schraad suggested that the Nebraska Master Naturalist program puts it in writing that it has taken this issue in steps and the Board back up this decision with the bylaws. The letter will state that it was an infraction of the University's HR policy and that the behavior that is being addressed has violated our code of conduct. See Bylaws Article 9 section 2.

Education committee presents an overview of how the Junior Naturalist program will be conducted, including badge incentive and the measurement for completion. A decision was made not to measure a Junior Naturalist's progress in hours, but rather a completion of the program requirements. The box chart was introduced showing proposed category topics. The committee and board are satisfied with Carly continuing to focus on developing curriculum through May. Education program will be rolled out using pilot programs, Austen Hill plans to do this through Papio NRD after school programs. Alie Mayes and Austen Hill reported that they want a part time project coordinator to "take the phone call from the teacher" so that the education programming can be optimized by personally communicating the availability of

resources and the option to use the educational trunks. Alie Mayes and Austen Hill request a curriculum review from Master Naturalists once program development is completed. Funding was discussed and the Sherwood Foundation was suggested by Mike Schrad as he knows they want education related grant requests. Dennis Ferraro stressed the importance, as it relates to grant writing, that the proposed 'deliverable' be "who the educated students become", perhaps in their future education and career paths but definitely in their knowledge base and ultimately a commitment to appreciating environmental and natural systems.

Mike Schrad asked on a 1 to 10 scale how close to rollout of the Junior Naturalist program, and Austen Hill and Alie Mayes replied a 1 or 2, but expect by June to be at a 4.5.

Chapter discussions: Officers concerned with volunteer engagement. Matt Jones, Dorie Stone and Karen Klein agreed that increasing the variety of Continuing Ed is the best way to increase attendance. People are interested in learning new things. Partnering with events that are already happening and filling that event with Master Naturalists is a good way to ensure frequent engagement. The example of the Creek training was mentioned and how that was not Master Naturalist coordinated, but nonetheless a good opportunity for improving Chapter attendance. Keep in mind that Business meetings are not attractive to some people, and could be a limiting factor to engagement.

Matt Jones reported that the Conference went well. December and January are relatively slow, a time for planning. Spring outreach booths are planned for the Audubon Crane Festival and the Bluebirds of Nebraska events. Springtime conferences also targeted for outreach.

There are 122 volunteers who have entered hours this quarter. 400 Master Naturalists are on the active list. Matt reported that volunteer hours were pretty good for this time period.

Motion proposed to allot Doug Wells up to 120 hours at \$14.00/hr through June 2020. Motion seconded and motion approved.

Matt asked to produce a form on tasks to be used for annual evaluation.

No Foundation money for calendar payment. Mike Schrad requested that the Board be more involved in the calendar committee's annual progress, and budget accordingly for timely payment. Dennis Ferraro mentioned that he was waiting on a payment request from the calendar committee for nearly a year.

Potential Nebraska Master Naturalist board meeting dates for 2020.

Thursdays - January 9th, April 9th, July 9th, and October 8th.

Action items:

Request from education committee for all board members to assist Carly by providing ideas for content that will enhance Junior Naturalist programs.

Tisha Johnson to complete email to group notifying everyone that the board nomination process is beginning 11/12 with elections scheduled to be completed before 12/21.

Matt Jones to notify volunteers by 11/12 that on the website, there is now a nominee write-in section available. Matt Jones to create a database management wishlist for the 11/14 meeting. Matt Jones to produce a form that formalizes his job duties so that there are accurate criteria for the annual employee evaluation.

Matt Jones, Dorie Stone and Andrea Faas will connect by phone the week of Nov. 11th to discuss Winter Celebration.