

Bexar Grotto Meeting

Date: January 9, 2017

45 attendees

Jessica Buckles called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Visitors

Iltsen - Giovonni's wife

Giovonni

Julian

Christine - Giovonni's friend

Treasury report provided by Pam Campbell (given by Michelle Smith)

\$13,563.00 Total Funds

Organization Reports

TSS - David McKinzie passed away per Marvin Miller. He developed the Walls Cave software. GIS database was also developed by David. It is the digital database to archive cave data. Board meeting on January 28th. Anyone is welcome. Joe Mitchell said they need more help in dealing with websites and databases. If you have experience, please let Joe know.

TSA - Rob Bisset - they had a meeting yesterday. They discussed the Texas Caver. They now have enough information to put another one out. They are trying to put together cave safety techniques. They are looking for someone who is interested in being the safety person.

TCMA - Gregg Williams - had a meeting yesterday. Gregg was elected president. Joe Ranzau - Treasurer, Jim Kennedy will be VP. Jay Jordan will be secretary.

NSS - No news.

Bracken - Fran Hutchins -work day this past Saturday. Many showed up. They finished up the road and making it drivable. They will have a few more work days. Winter population of bats are back. They have about 90,000 right now.

Old Business

- Trailer - Official grotto trailer - it has been tossed around to buy one. Rob Bissett will be in charge of buying it. He would like to get options and then take it to committee to make the final decision. On hold for now.
- Aaron Wertheim said they have a tentative budget ready to present to the members. He will present next time.
- Jessica Buckles was able to contact the owner of Chester's. She proposed some changes to the contract they presented. They did not want us to go past 9 p.m. and they wanted us to at least have \$200 food charge. Our lowest attended meeting had \$260 in sales so the sales were not the issue.

We no longer have a time stipulation. Chester's was appreciative of our business and wanted us to stay.

New Business

- Tom Florer - Lamar University wants us to put on a trip for them this year again. Tom is not available to do it so he needs someone else. We usually take them to Logan's and Robber Barron. It will be the weekend of April 14 & 15. Contact Tom Florer if you can assist.
- Zack is asking for help when he brings students to Robber Barron and does labor for the cave. He just needs someone to help lead them through. It will be the week of March 6 -10.
- Ellie discussed the tank haul that she is organizing. She wants the grotto to match the donation from last year which was \$350. She would like us to add \$70 to that amount. This is just for the toilets. We already approved \$350. Bennett Lee motioned that we pay the additional money and Kirk Menking seconded to increase it to \$422.18.

Elections

Each officer explained their current duties and then a vote was taken for each position with a raise of hands. Votes were counted by Jessica Buckles.

Secretary - Michelle Smith, Current Secretary

Nominations - Michelle Smith vacated her position. Nominated Jordan Rasmaseun (16 votes), Lindsey Adamoski (23 votes) - **Lindsey Adamoksi nominated Secretary replacing Michelle Smith.**

Treasurer - Pam Campbell, Current Treasurer.

Nominations - No opposition - **Pam Campbell nominated Treasurer** - No change

Trip Chair - Aaron Wertheim, Current Trip Chair.

Nominations - Leah Hill (11 votes), Greg Mosier (25 votes) - **Greg Mosier nominated for Trip Chair replacing Aaron Wertheim.**

Program Chair - Rob Bissett - Current Program Chair

Nominations - Rob Bissett vacated his position. **Bennett Lee nominated for Program Chair replacing Rob Bissett.**

President - Jessica Buckles - Current President

Nominations - Jessica Buckles vacated her position. Nominated Leah Hill (16 votes), Aaron Wertheim (23 votes)- **Aaron Wertheim nominated for President replacing Jessica Buckles.**

Leah Hill - Nominated Editor of Bexar Facts

Special Note: Jessica Buckles will be removed as Chair Person/Board Member effective 1/9/2017. We will also proceed with removing Jessica Buckles and Michelle Smith from Bexar Grotto checking account to be effective immediately.

Announcements

We received a thank you note from NSS regarding our \$1,000 donation

Upcoming trips

- Kurt Menking is planning a couple of trips to Mexico. February 23 - 26 and March 27 - 30. He will plan it for one of these dates, not both. There is a cave there but it is not a real caving trip. It is a mine where they dig Geodes. May 18 - 21 will be a set date.
- February 4 & 5 - Government Canyon - see Marvin Miller
- Second Weekend of every month will be Colorado Bend. You must call ahead to let them know you are going. Your job will be to ridge walk and find new caves.
- January 21, 28 and February 4th - See My Shovel - You must be vertically proficient. Bennett will set up a night to verify everyone's skills.

Trip Reports

MJ Gibbons went to New Mexico and did some caving. Amy Morton and Tom Rodgers went as well. They had to rig inside the cave to drop.

Evelyn Mitchell went caving with Peter Strauss and others in Quantana Rue. There were ants blocking one of the caves and they all had to run by one at a time to get by them. They explored one of the caves. Peter was just trying to identify things to explore later.

MJ Gibbons went to Caverns of Sonora

Marvin Miller - Government Canyon trip this weekend. He sent some to Solitude Pit. There is some air flow out of the passage. Only room for about two people. They noticed movement at the pit entrance and then noticed it was a rattle snake. They haven't seen this type of snake in a cave. He discussed other caves they explored and they have identified future trips.

Kurt Menking hiked to Mt. Vesuvius and spent three nights at a B & B on the slope of Mt. Vesuvius. He spent six weeks in Italy. You get on a train to go to the commercial cave.

Evelyn ran a resistivity test at Cricket Cave. Mike Burrell helped her set up the cable and stakes. They started around 6 p.m. They ran test for about an hour. She is still analyzing the reports.

Dye tracing done at Cave without a Name. They got positive results.

Geary Shindel and Bennett Lee took some fire fighters to Hills and Dales.

Bennett Lee, Pam Campbell and others went to Deep and Punkin on New Years' Eve. There was a trip into Deep on Friday. Bennett and Pam dropped Punkin on Saturday.

Bennett Lee and others cleared out the road at the new property at Bracken Cave. It is still rocky so they will go out again and make it smoother. Sometime in March they will head back out there and do more cleanup so they can start rappelling.

Alan Montemayor - caving off of Hwy. 1863. They are talking about dumping sewage at Lewis Creek which could potentially affect the Edwards Aquifer.

Geary Schindel - went to a cave about 20 foot deep near Bracken Cave. The owner who owns it now was going to come tonight but would like to come again. He wants some garbage removed from his cave so he is hoping from our help.

Program Announcement

No program tonight due to elections.

Jessica Buckles adjourned meeting at 8:44p.m.