

## **Bexar Grotto Meeting**

Date: 1/23/17

Attendees: 37

Arron Wertheim called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### **Visitors**

Steve Marquez: Meetup

Dominic: had a friend in the group

### **Treasury report provided by Pam Campbell:**

Current Account Balance: \$13,922.58

\$3,000 allotted for trailer.

CM was cancelled until further notice so we were not charged for Port-A-Potties.

Dues for the year are due: \$5/year; \$6/families

### **Organization Reports**

**TSS** – There is a board meeting this Saturday at the headquarters in Austin. Everybody is invited. There are files for perusal at headquarters. Books are for sale. (Marvin)

**TSA** – Amy Morton is in charge of the spring convention. She is in the process of getting approval for holding the event at the Hill Country State Natural Area. If we have more than 100 people we can pay group pricing. Rob is expediting the process and will let us know. Our second choice is Caverns of Sonora. (Rob)

**TCMA** - Jim Kennedy announced a workday on April 1<sup>st</sup> at Ezell's Cave. Michael Cicherski is heading that up. It's a good opportunity to see the property. (Gregg)

**NSS** – We have brought brochures. National Speleological Society (NSS) is our parent organization. We encourage cavers to belong to the NSS. There is a newsletter about what is going on around the world in caving. The NSS 2017 Convention will be in Rio Rancho, New Mexico from June 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. You can find everything you need at NSS.org. (Sue)

**Bracken** – There will probably be a follow-up work trip during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of March. (Bennett)

### **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.**

## New Business

### **Budget Discussion:**

Arron discussed the last three years of budget information with the following points:

- We make about \$1,000 per year from our Bamberger volunteer work, \$4,000 to \$5,000 from dues, approximately \$400 to \$1000 from T-shirt sales, \$12,600 from the Hydro-Geo Workshop, and \$6,500 from sponsors of the Hydro-Geo Workshop. In 2016, the grotto brought in \$21,500.
- Our operating expenses (mailbox, printing, Meetup, misc.) average almost \$500 per year.
- We also donate to Texas Cavers Reunion and the Texas Speleological Association Convention (\$400 in 2014, \$2,000 in 2016).
- We have requisitioned \$3,000 for a trailer and some other items for 2017 which will end up totaling \$3,800 for additional expenses off the grotto bottom line for 2017.
- Hydro-Geo Workshop expenses total \$9,000 to \$10,000 each year. Geary Schindel thinks he can host a better workshop with more money. If he gets \$10,500, we could make another 10% in net income which would bring us to \$21,000 in gross income from the Hydro-Geo Workshop.
- The Budget Committee thinks we should have money in savings. The committee decided that a 40% savings goal until we hit a sum of \$20,000 would be a reasonable expectation to cover any serious issues or potential expenses.
- The rest of the money could go to efforts we support in the caving community. A total of \$5,200 is available for donations in 2017 and we expect to save \$3,466 in savings.
- In 2 years we anticipate having our \$20,000. Anticipated savings by end of 2017 will be close to \$16,000.
- The only two particularly variable items in the budget are how much we spend in donations, how much we want to save, and for how long. The committee recommendation is that we save 40 percent and then everything else are line item budget items that the grotto approves. Geary has to provide receipts using his \$10,000 for the Hydro-Geo Workshop.
  - Pam: The majority of this money that we will have to spend won't come in until September.
  - Arron: The budget committee needs to reconvene to decide how and when to spend money.
  - Sue: Why \$20,000? It's a lot for a non-profit and we don't really have that much in unexpected expenses.
  - Arron: The idea was that we put up front money for the Hydro-Geo Workshop, but then people don't show up and we lose money. Or we might need to hire a CPA for an audit.
  - Greg: Any net income after \$20,000 goes towards donations and expenditures.
  - Arron: We're a 501`C3 nonprofit. There are limits to how much income we can bring in. The kinds of things we can donate to are limited as well. At this time we're okay.
  - Bennett: Right now we have easy tax forms and if we make too much money we have harder taxes.
  - Greg: What were the donations for?
  - Arron: We gave \$200 to PESH, \$500 to Greater Edward's Aquifer foundation, \$300 to CM survey for the January/February trip, \$970 for Honey Creek road repair, \$50 for CM tank haul food, \$2,000 to the NSS Headquarters Donation Fund (new building), \$501 to cover Powell's gate, \$800 for new showers at Deep and Punkin, \$333 for Zebra lights at TCR, and \$1,350 to support 3 firefighters going to NCRC rescue training.

The grotto gave \$8,500 last year to support caving activities.

- o Sue: We're donating a lot less this year?
- o Arron: Yes, we were very generous last year. This year if we do baseline budget we'll donate 60% of it.
- o Sue: I move we accept the proposal.
- o Gregg: I second.
- o Arron: This is the recommendation of the budget committee. We can table it.
- o Geary: This is a big decision by the grotto that we can think about.
- o Arron: Two people requested the budget file out of the whole grotto. We next need to take this new budget and figure out how to spend the donation money.
- o It was discussed that the proposal had already been moved to be accepted and seconded. Therefore, ballots were handed out. The results were 32 attendees in favor of the budget, one attendee wrote "maybe," and zero attendees were not in favor.

#### **Announcements:**

- Sue: Long sleeve shirts are for sale for \$20, short sleeves are \$15, and patches are \$5.
- We've received copies of NSS news, 2016. We have a contract with Chester's for another year. We will try to be out by 9pm every night.
- Ellie: The new date for the cancelled CM tank haul is uncertain due to hunting season and rain. There are too many other factors. An announcement will be made when the new date is agreed upon. People who were confirmed on the list for the cancelled haul will have first priority when the new date is decided upon.
- Bennett: Fran offered Monday in June for the Grotto Meeting at Bracken. June 12<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. Later is better because more bats will be there. Geary recommends the 12<sup>th</sup> because people might be out of town later. We are penciling in the 12<sup>th</sup> for Bracken.

#### **Upcoming Trips:**

- February 4-5<sup>th</sup>: Government Canyon Karst Survey with Marvin
- February 11<sup>th</sup>: Kleck Park: We need to do some work in the sink and need a few bodies to get some of the debris out of the cave. The park is on Stahl Lane in Comal County and we will meet at 9am. (Greg Mosier)
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: TSA survey trip at Colorado Bend. Every second weekend through fall and winter to survey new caves at Colorado Bend. You must contact Chris Pena or Will Quast prior to Friday evening if you would like to go.
- March 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>: Deep Survey Trip: Joe will make the announcement on that. Ask to be put on wait list if you're interested.
- April 1<sup>st</sup>: Ezell's Cave workday
- May 7<sup>th</sup>: Grotto cookout at Bamberger
- Clean-up at Bracken (Date TBA)
- There might be a new trip at Spring Creek in February or March so keep your ears peeled.
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>: Grotto cookout at Bamberger. We'll need help setting up on the 6<sup>th</sup> and serving on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Logan's is restricted right now.
- Venture Crew in Corpus interested in cave trip. Arron asked for a list of available dates from them.

- Rob spoke about trip leader training. Rob and Mike would like grotto members to know that they can participate in trip leader training so that they can help the grotto take outside groups through Robber Baron and other caves. Members can also initiate trips. Call Mike or Joe for access to the cave. If we get more trip leaders, the “old-timers” will have some help.
- Zach is looking for volunteers to help with high school trip the week before spring break March 6-10. He is willing to train. Correspond with him about dates and the routine. If you’re interested in helping with the high school trip we will have 90 kids over 3 days. This will help to uncover the historic entrance with their labor.

### **Trip Reports**

Leia: Went on a Robber Baron Leadership training trip last Saturday with Mike Harris, Rob Bissett, MJ Gibbons, and Catherine Berkley. She learned how to open the gate and learned cave etiquette and safety. She also took a trip to CWAN where a room with columns was flooded.

Bennett: Went to CM to check it out before the tank haul. At the first drop it was like the shower stall at Spring Creek. At the top of second drop there was water below the ladder so they didn’t bother climbing down. OMG was sumped out. They will probably do a project to cement in all the rocks at the top of the second drop due to all of the loose rocks. If anyone has any experience with cement track him down. There will probably be two trips: one exploratory and one work.

Jill: Last fall she went with Tom F., Sue, and Geary to a cave (location purposely omitted) after a woman called Geary to ask for help retrieving her phone that had dropped into the cave. They were successful. Only Tom and Jill could fit in the cave. Last week they returned. They went all the way to the end but it sumped up. There were very few decorations. It is a skinny and dangerous cave that needs to be surveyed. The ceiling reached 10-20 feet at one point, leaves and branches were at the ceiling and it pancaked out at one area. There is some question as to who owns the cave. Geary wants to do dye injection and secure the entrance so that it doesn’t fully collapse. The entrance is probably 100 feet above the water table. Geary is worried that cave entrance is fragile and he also wants to continue good relationships with the people there and make sure nobody drowns. Geary prefers nobody writes anybody about it. He has to be careful about client confidentiality. (further identifying information omitted)

### **Program Announcement**

Video of a McBride’s Cave Rescue by Benjy Von Cramon.

Arron Wertheim adjourned meeting at 8 p.m.

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