

Bexar Grotto Meeting.

Date: 1/8/18

Attendees: 58

Arron called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

Visitors

Grace is in the navy and wants to see bats. She is from Nebraska.

Morgan was introduced to the group. He was nominated by NEISD to be one of the 250 individuals at the Environmental Science youth summit in DC.

Morgan's dad went with Morgan to Robber Baron cave.

Sam heard about this through her Geology professor (Jess).

Avery has heard about it before, but was reminded about it from Sam.

Treasury report

Pam reported that \$21,212.96 and taxes will be done this month.

Organization Reports

TSS – Joe Mitchell reported that TCMA and TSS now have a joint headquarters called the Texas Speleology Center. TCMA purchased the facility until TSS completes its sale of a property in a Georgetown. The TSS library will reside here. It's a 5 acre isolated property near Driftwood, Texas. It has a large pole barn for meetings, talks, and storage. There is a house with a full size basement and a meeting room upstairs. Over the course of the next year there will be a number of work days to get the place in shape and move materials. We'll be doing a fundraising campaign.

TSA – Rob reported that TSA had a business meeting yesterday with an outstanding turnout of 2/4 officers. March 23-25 will be the TSA convention at Hill Country State Natural Area.

TCMA – Joe Ranzau reported that we just elected a new crop of directors to join the board: Greg Mosier and Linda Palit. We have a budget meeting coming up. Trip leaders for larger preserves must be a TCMA member. If you have questions email Joe or Denise.

NSS – 100 people showed up at the Bat Ball. There were a number of cave trips, a vertical workshop, a ropes course, a hot tub,

Bracken – Next week they're going to try to burn 200 acres. They're also doing assorted scout projects. The winter population of bats is 90,000. They left at 6pm last night. They will also have volunteer opportunities for cutting down cedar trees.

Old Business

Fran reported that they had previously been trying to decide whether or not they'd continue the Bamberger cookout. The discussion was tabled. They need someone that can organize the project and buy the food. Christie said they haven't had anyone step up. Christie would like to know if anyone is

willing to step up to learn how to do the shopping and figuring out how to do the cooking. Let Christie know. MJ said that he had offered to do it last year at a meeting, but didn't hear anything about it. Christie thinks we need to put more emphasis on caving. She's leaving the floor open. Joe Ranzau also mentioned that the equipment is very old and in disrepair. They've been supplying the equipment. Rob summarized it for everyone. Fran said that they would not be doing it. The issue was dead and everyone agreed.

New Business

Alan asked where we stand on the cave phones. Steve Gutting has the cave phones. They are working. He ordered two spools of wire but they haven't arrived. Alan proposed that we train a number of members how to set the phones up and use them. Rob suggested making this a training event at the TSA convention.

Joe Ranzau asked if someone would make the motion to be the first grotto to donate towards the Texas Speleological Center. Geary made a motion that we donate \$1,000 to the joint fundraising efforts. Alan seconded the motion. Sean asked if he could make a motion to modify the donation to \$5,000. Pam seconded the motion. 100% of the funds go towards the building. Anything in excess could be used towards the facility. MJ wanted to make sure there is no chance of defaulting. Joe said that TSS could technically default, but TCMA owns the facility outright. For full disclosure, Marvin and Joe were pointed out as the treasurers. It was clarified that we would donate \$5,000. 28 were in favor and 4 were opposed to donating \$5,000. Motion passed.

Nominations for Officers:

Officers will take authority on the second meeting. All officers wanted to step down.

Chairman: Mike Harris and MJ Gibbons nominated, vote was 43 Mike Harris; 1 MJ Gibbons. Mike Harris will be replacing Arron Wertheim.

Treasurer: Emily Thompson, unopposed, replacing Pam Campbell.

Secretary: Leia Hill, unopposed, replacing Lindsey Adamoski

Programs: Gary White, unopposed with Steve Gutting managing equipment, replacing Bennett Lee

Trip Chair: Jill Orr, unopposed, replacing Greg Mosier

T-Shirts: Leia Hill, unopposed, replacing Sue (this is not an officer position)

Bexar Facts editor: Rich Silver, replacing Leia Hill (this is not an officer position)

Special Note: Arron Wertheim will be removed as Chair Person/Board Member effective 1/8/2018. We will also proceed with removing Arron Wertheim and Pam Campbell from Bexar Grotto checking account to be effective immediately. Emily Thompson and Mike Harris will be added to the checking account.

Announcements:

T-shirts are on sale.

Upcoming Trips:

January 8: Deep Cave Survey Trip

January 20th and 21st: Deep and Punkin for first-timers. Contact Geary.

January 20th: Hill Country SNA; email Rob Bisset if you want to go

January 20th through 27th: NCRC Cave Rescue Training at Colorado Bend State Park

February 3rd and 4th: Government Canyon State Natural Area; contact Marvin

February 17th: Hill Country SNA

March 3rd and 4th: Government Canyon State Natural Area

April 21st: Hill Country SNA

Trip Reports

Leia went to Spring Cave.

Marvin took Joe and Jerry to Lilyhammer. The air was bad. Surveyed 22 meters. It's 33 meters deep and it's now the deepest cave out there. They found a hole that led back into the previous pit they had surveyed.

Jessie went ridgewalking at Government Canyon and saw many interesting karst features.

Fran, Rob, and Rick Corbell lead some biologists to the panhandle to survey hibernaculum for four species of bats.

Geary did Miss Miller's cave in Alabama.

Program Announcement

There was no program tonight because we had elections.

Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm.