

Laffites Cove Nature Society

Board of Directors Meeting

The Laffites Cove Nature Society Board of Directors held a Board of Directors meeting on September 14, 2013. The meeting was held at the Galveston Country Club and was called to order at 9:00 AM by Bonnie White, President. Directors present were Bonnie White, Jim Walters, Ben Hock, Brenda Dawson, and Mort Voller. A quorum was established. Susan Gonzales with CKM was present.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting. Upon motion duly made by Brenda Dawson and seconded by Ben Hock, the following resolution was adopted by unanimous adopted. Resolved that, the Board approved the minutes of July 13, 2013 with correction adding Plans are to water 5 gal. *per inch of trunk, 3" – 4" above the tree trunk.*

Ben Hock gave the Financial Report. Susan Gonzales stated she recommends the Board change to the Community Association Bank (CAB), which is a Mutual of Omaha Bank. They provide free lockbox and owners can pay by credit card. Susan will provide information for the CAB for the Board to review and Certificate of Deposit rates. Motion by Jim Walters and second by Bonnie White to accept the financial report was approved by unanimous vote.

Nature Preserve Report – Mort Voller. Mort stated he forgot to mention that as part of our Annual clean up but separate from the Mow, we usually go around the perimeter of the preserve and cut and remove vegetation from the fence lines...I am going to get a new quote on doing that, from the two organizations that work for us.

Thought an update on Preserve maintenance projects would be useful...then a new project proposal. The major mowing was completed satisfactorily in the prairie parts of Preserves E, D and F. During this work some huge mature tallow trees near the new Binnacle entrance with many but unripe seeds were cut down and stumps treated. The new entrance off Binnacle needs tidying upI will get Southern Fencing to give us a quote on finishing the now open ends of the hurricane fencing. Remnants of the original hurricane fencing that once surrounded E and D were uncovered and need to be removed.

There is overhead encroachment by plants along the trails in E. I'll check the monthly maintenance contract, see if that falls under Heric (routine) or has to be a non routine item.

I will be contacting Students Conservation Association about some help with invasive removal this fall but we can't expect their help every year.

In meantime invasives (tallow, chinaberry) will be handled on priority basis ..if they look like they will flower and seed before fall they will be cut and treated. We do have a terrible problem with McCartney Rose and that is probably not resolvable.

Propose we start on the project to clean and improve the usefulness of our Eckert Bayou connection/view and simultaneously re-vegetate the grassy extension of Lee Henkels lawn. I had passed out (at last meeting) an aerial with a proposal to create an alternate green pathway connection between the Binnacle and Jibstay Courts. But I think we could also just create a viewing spot complete with a (perhaps memorial) bench. We can always complete the connection later if it seems like to would help to divert the path of non birding runners, dog walkers etc.

I suggest we have a “landscape” plan drawn up showing where the path will run, where we will plant some new (specific) trees (we lost a lot to Ike driven water surge in that area and we do have a water line), and perhaps some natural flowering bushes like lantana etc. As a courtesy I suggest we then advise Lee H as to what we will be doing.... or you may decide to just go do it and explain later. The plan will of course show where the LCNS boundary line runs.

But step 1 is to clean up the area. I had hoped to be able to create mulch from the wood debris but taking the debris to the City dump and picking up free mulch there is probably a better option.

Susan Gonzales stated that the buoy’s are in. Arrangements will be made to have them installed.

The Board closed the meeting to go into an executive meeting to discuss and delinquent account.

The Board reopened the meeting and the following decision was made. Motion by Ben Hock, seconded by Mort Voller, the Board by unanimous vote approved to send a legal demand letter for L0609010.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Susan Gonzales

Recording Secretary