

MINUTES OF SPRING TSA BUSINESS MEETING

2 April, 2011

(Convened at TSA Spring Convention at Fort Clark Springs, Bracketville). Submitted by Denise Prendergast

Officers Present: Ellie Thoene, Vice-Chairman; Michael Cicherski, Treasurer; Denise Prendergast, Secretary

Officers Absent: Mark Alman, Chairman

TSA Members and Cavers in Attendance: Katie Arens, Ron Ralph, Diane Ralph, Lee Jay Graves, Jacqui Thomas, Bill Russell, Logan McNatt, Orion Knox, Carl Kunath, Linda Palit, John Moses, Marvin Miller, Bill Bently, Christi Burrell, Joe Ranzau, Dave McClung, Eric Bixby, Melissa Hamilton

Welcome and Introductions/Chairman's Report: (Thoene and Cicherski). Thoene convened meeting at 5:04 pm. Because Mark Alman had to leave convention unexpectedly (kidney stones), she was next in line and turning meeting over to Cicherski to run. Cicherski said he is not good at Robert's Rules of Order, so please cut him some slack or let him know how to proceed.

Vice-Chairman's Report: (Thoene). Thoene thanked everybody for coming to the TSA spring convention.

Secretary's Report: (Prendergast). Minutes from the Winter Meeting were not available so approving them was deferred to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: (Cicherski). Cicherski handed out a Treasurer's Report (one table with years 2007 through 2010 and another with monthly details for 2010). We should do OK financially at convention, about 101 people signed up, do not yet have cooks' expenses.

- o The summary for years 2007 through 2010 showed that the TSA budgets and actually spends anywhere from approximately \$6500 to \$8900 each year. *The Texas Caver* is the major expense, with annual costs ranging from approximately \$2600 to \$5600.
- o Through 12/31/2011, the TSA had assets of \$8,775.06.
- o There are 143 current paid members with 57 receiving on-line only versions of *The Texas Caver*.
- o Income totaled \$10,040.36 for 2010, with expenses totaling \$8,589.07 (positive variance of \$1,451.29).
- o The TSA store brought in \$1,163.62 in 2010.

Standing Committee Reports

TSA Projects — (Cicherski). Jim Kennedy absent, so Marvin Miller discussed Government Canyon. Just had their 100th trip celebration, and it was a great success. TSA donated \$150 to it, and so did Bexar Grotto. Lots of work to do out there. Cicherski said that Longhorn Caverns is on hold awaiting TPWD approval. Ron Ralph said that Devil's River State Natural Area is now under state control, and we are working with TPWD on an MOA to begin a karst survey. Hope to start up in the fall. Linda Palit said we may need a new person to head up that project, nothing official yet. Lee Jay said that Colorado Bend State Park has had a lot of people participating, last trip of the year in May or June.

TSA Website — (Cicherski). Butch Fralia absent, and Cicherski not sure of status.

Membership Committee — (Cicherski). Ryan Monjaras absent, so Cicherski discussed. Got about 25 renewals today, but many people are not renewing. The officers need to see if Ryan needs help to increase membership.

Conservation Committee – Chair not here, no comments.

Safety and Techniques — Chair not here, no comments.

Publications — Chair not here, no comments.

TSA Store – (Graves). Lee Jay said that business has been moderate at convention. We are getting new Texas bat stickers. If anyone wants patches, they should discuss with him. He would like a new TSA banner. Joe Ranzau said they cost from \$300 to \$400. Lee Jay asked Cicherski if he thought we could afford it, and Cicherski said yes. A motion was made to purchase a TSA store sign for up to \$350, seconded, and it passed with no objections.

Old Business

Cicherski said we already discussed Government Canyon, no other old business.

New Business

TSA Brochure — (Cicherski). Cicherski not sure of this, so tabled until next meeting.

50th Issue of *The Texas Caver* — (Cicherski). Cicherski discussed the background. In 2005, it was the 50th Issue of *The Texas Caver*. When approached by Carl Kunath and Jerry Atkinson about the TSA covering the costs, because it was estimated at \$1200 to \$1500, the officers thought it was not a good idea. Kunath said that his email on Texascavers (i.e. Cavetex) had summed up the main issues. In 2004, only a few issues of *The Texas Caver* were produced, and the members are owed these back issues. Chris Vreeland produced one of the lost issues a few years back, and now Carl and Atkinson have the last one ready. The usual printer of *The Texas Caver* had quoted them a price of \$5.80 per copy with a minimum order of 150 copies. With proofing and shipping costs, the total came to about \$8.22 per copy, for a total of approximately \$1200 (including costs to mail to members). He was not sure of how many members there were in 2005, maybe 175, but some would probably not want a hard copy. Some new members may want one. This is a commemorative issue, a retrospect on Texas caving. Linda Palit said that distributing it at TCR might save some costs of shipping to members. Kunath said additional copies would be print on demand at the same cost. He said that this issue was voted on and approved in 2007, although costs were not discussed back then. Allan Cobb had pledged a \$300 donation by TCR. Knox said that there is a draft being shown in the room on a computer, and it looks like the best issue ever. Cicherski discussed that the officers had been concerned this was an unbudgeted item for 2011, and we have a responsibility to our members to be fiscally sound. This item would expend nearly 15% of our current assets. Folks discussed ideas to save costs. Cicherski said that he had heard people expressing concern that there was a limited pool of people who got to contribute articles, and Kunath responded that he had been soliciting articles from many people for 3 to 4 years, and did not get back many responses. A motion was made with various amendments to publish 150 copies of the 50th anniversary issue, free to 2005 members, distributed first at TCR (and then mailed to 2005 members who did not get it at TCR), available to all TSA members on line, sold to anybody else who was not a 2005 member (at a to-be-determined by the Board cost). The motion was made, seconded, and passed with no objections.

Announcements

Ron Ralph invited folks to the TPWD meeting regarding the Devil's River State Natural Area.

Adjourn Meeting

Cicherski made the motion to conclude meeting at 6:04 pm. Seconded and motion carried.