

Friends of the Big Empty

Minutes

Board meeting

DATE March 26, 2024

TIME 6:02 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Alex Vukasin

IN ATTENDANCE

Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Becky Offutt, Brandi Kureska.

GUEST: David Trevino

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes with no changes to the 3/5/24 meeting by Exa Lee, second by Brandi and approved unanimously.

BOARD

Marcella made motions to approve changes to the Mascot Contest Rules as follows:

1. Grades 7-12 may participate.
Any age may participate.
Jessica second, Cindie voted No, all others voted yes, motion approved.
3. Entries may be submitted between January 1-March 31, 2024.
Entries must be submitted by May 30, 2024.
Mariah second, all voted yes, motion approved.
13. Judges will submit their votes at the first board meeting in April, 2024 or by April 15, 2024 at the latest
Judges will submit their votes at the first board meeting in June, 2024 or by June 15, 2024 at the latest.
Exa Lee second, all voted yes, motion approved.
16. The prize will be awarded in person by April 30, 2024
The prize will be awarded in person by June 30, 2024
Brandi second, all voted yes, motion approved.

Cindie submitted via email a motion to approve changes to the Mascot Contest Rules as follows:
Brandi seconded the motion, Marcella/Brandi/Cindie/Becky voted yes, motion approved.

9. A Parental Consent/Release (next page) is required with each entry and includes a release for the right to use the mascot image on our website/promotional materials.

A Release form (next page) is required with each entry. It must be signed by the Submitter or Parent/Guardian if Submitter is a minor. The Release form includes a release for the right to use the mascot image on our website/promotional materials.

14. The winner's parent/guardian will be contacted by a member of the board of directors via the email or phone number provided with the entry. At that time, we will schedule where the prize will be awarded in person.

The winner or winner's parent/guardian (if applicable) will be contacted by a member of the board of directors via the email or phone number provided with the entry. At that time, we will schedule where the prize will be awarded in person.

- These changes will occur 4/1/24:
 - Marcella will post updated rules and graphic on the website.
 - Marcella will include the new graphic in the Newsletter and post on facebook.
 - Jessica will email the text below with the updated rules to all entries received through 3/31.

“Dear Mascot Contest Participant:

We did not receive enough entries that met the criteria we outlined and have revised the rules accordingly (copy attached). The contest is now open to any age with a new deadline of May 30, 2024. Your current entry will continue to be included in the final vote. You can also submit a new entry by May 30, 2024. Please keep in mind that we are looking for a mascot that will represent our region of Texas known as The Big Empty. For students, we are not looking for entries of your school mascot or its name. We would like to see a drawing either by hand or made on a computer but not AI generated. The mascot should have a face including eyes and maybe hands and/or feet. Don't forget to give your mascot a name!

Thank you and good luck!!”

OLD BUSINESS

- Jessica created a Google Map of The Big Empty locations we've visited. Marcella will post a link to the map on Explore The Big Empty home page. We can discuss at next meeting location on website, photos to add, layout before adding same to Friends of The Big Empty website and where to link it.
- The Places Project has been updated and shared with all Board members. We will review further updates at next meeting to see if ready to post on website. Once posted on the website, we will contact each place to let them know about our project and possible future sponsorship opportunities.
- Cindie will contact Don Thompson for biography/photo by 4/20 to be included as the next Notable Resident.
- Linda Short in Haskell could be a possible contact to reach out to Wyman Meinzer as future Notable Resident.
- David Trevino will pass our information to the Lions Club program director for us to provide a presentation at a future meeting.
- Marcella is attempting to locate at least one Chamber of Commerce office in each of 13 counties. 10 had email addresses to inquire about non-profit memberships. 5 have responded so far. Memberships vary. We should have a better report by our next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Farmer's market coming to Munday starting April 13th, chance to have a Friends of The Big Empty booth

REPORTS

- Mascot entries, 4 and only 1 met criteria

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Add 4th of July thing in Munday to events calendar

CLOSE MEETING

- Motion to close meeting 7:20 PM: Brandi, 2nd: Exa Lee, Vote: Yes, unanimous

NEXT MEETING

- April 16th, 6-8 pm, Hole In The Wall, Rochester. They take cash, check or Venmo. No credit card. There will not be a google meet option.