

**Houston Area Blacksmiths Association  
Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 11, 2015, 6:00 – 9:00 pm  
Via teleconference**

In attendance: D. Flanders, P. Farrell, P. Bossart, M. Miles, R. Boswell, T. Bailey, E. Malgrem, B. Hensley (D. Koenig)

1. D. Flanders shared his assessment of HABA's steady progress and good achievements over the past 12 months. He concluded by stating his view of reasonable goals for the next year would be:

- Move more members up the chain of capability and commitment
- Strengthen our assets at the Magnolia Depot shop
- Broaden our team involved in doing outreach and public demos
- Enhance our monthly meeting pipeline reliability and quality

There was general support for this assessment. D. Koenig discussed his challenges in obtaining reliable support for the Bayou Bend project. We agreed that we would give this early attention in 2015.

2. P. Bossart presented that summary of 2014 transactions and current financial position. Our positive cash balance reduced only by about \$1000, even after investing over \$4000 in tools and equipment. We agreed to continue to roll the CDs as they mature. We agreed that we should transition the registered mailing address from D. Koenig to D. Flanders.

3. D. Flanders noted that we had 516 Facebook likes and good interaction through this portal. P. Farrell reported that we had about 350 people receiving the members' email.

P. Farrell also noted that we had about 350 members listed in the current system. He indicated that he and P. Bossart were working to transition the membership files to a database set up. The Board agreed that we should leave the dues as an annual fee for the time being.

P. Farrell reported that Armand Bayou Skills Building program was going strong. Coal is now being made available to members at this storage location.

D. Flanders, R. Boswell, and M. Miles updated the Board on progress and activities at the Magnolia Depot shop. In addition to currently planned infrastructure improvements, it was agreed that we should mount the vises (2 with Richard and possibly two in container) and deploy them at Magnolia and perhaps Armand Bayou.

4. The future meetings schedule was reviewed and worked. We need more members to volunteer to lead / organize monthly meetings:

- Feb 21, Combo Demo, need members to support the Lee's
- March 21, at Magnolia, E. Malgrem to see if Gary Jameson would be interested to demo. D. Flanders to bring the unfinished wrought iron project pieces so that we can make a plan for its completion.
- April 18, at Magnolia, Depot Day, R. Boswell and B. Hensley will anchor this event
- April 17-19, at EJ's in Kinder, LA
- May ?
- June ?
- July, picnic?

5. Forgefest planning was discussed. The dates of 2-4 October 2015 were chosen. P. Bossart generously offered the use of his ranch and the Board agreed to use it if Pat could confirm. Ernie Dorril was suggested as a demonstrator. D. Flanders will send out ABANA list of demonstrators for members to consider. We would appreciate a member volunteering to lead the organization of this event.

6. P. Farrell introduced the topic of policies regarding demonstration requests from outside entities. It was agreed that the ones that the HABA Board did not want to claim for its own would be posted, as a communication service only, on the HABA website for members to note and make bilateral contact directly with the other party. Advice on the email may also be considered.

R. Boswell noted the links on the website for demonstration procedures and safety guidelines. D. Koenig noted that MN and MS clubs have demonstrator criteria. D. Koenig, Les, and P. Farrell will give this area more consideration.

7. P. Farrell discussed the need to interact with our sponsors more. R. Boswell highlighted the existing sponsors links page on the website. We agreed that contacting sponsors for support in advance of the Forgefest auction would be the best time to solicit contributions.

8. D. Flanders moved and P. Farrell seconded and it was unanimously agreed that our annual general meeting would be held at Pete's offices off Westheimer on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at 6:00 pm.

9. E. Malgrem proposed that HABA consider supporting Tommy Traylor's potential leadership of the ABANA conference auction in Salt Lake City in 2016. The Board agreed to consider and discuss this opportunity further in the future.

10. It was agreed that P. Bossart and E. Malgrem would review our insurance policy and interact with the broker to ensure that our increased amounts of activity due Armand Bayou and Magnolia meetings would be properly declared.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.