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I am Bryan Brown, the current President of the RNC. I would like to introduce our board members and officers.

We have a quorum of our members so I am calling this meeting to order.

We would like to conduct the business portion of the meeting first, and then have a presentation about what is happening at the RNC.

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Annual Membership Meeting  
Minutes  
January 25, 2024

Please take a moment to review  
the minutes

The first order of business is the approval of the minutes of the last annual meeting of members held on January 25, 2024. Copies have been made available to everyone here. Does anyone have any additions or corrections to the minutes? Is there a motion to approve the minutes as written? Is there a second?

All in favor, please say aye; opposed, please say no. The minutes are approved as written.

The next bit of business is the election of officers, directors and the Nominating Committee.

Let me ask Tara Bushnoe, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to come forward to present its report.

## 2024 Officers & Directors Election

Officers: Serve one year terms with a limit of 3 terms.

- President: Bryan Brown – 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Vice President: Leslie Jones – 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Past President: Tara Bushnoe – 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Secretary: Brad Toelle – 2<sup>nd</sup> term
- Treasurer: Jeff Gelsone – 8<sup>th</sup> term \*

\* **SECTION 3. Terms of Office** All officers shall be elected at the January meeting and shall hold office for one (1) year, beginning with the January meeting or until their successors take office. No Officer shall be elected for more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office, with the exception of the Treasurer, who, if elected, may hold office for additional consecutive terms.

Directors:


- Kevin Lockhart (1<sup>st</sup> year 2<sup>nd</sup> Two Year Term)

Tara Bushnoe presents the slate of officers. It is necessary to elect only one director this year. The remaining six directors are currently serving within their terms.

Nominating Committee Election

General members of the Nominating Committee  
serve a 2 year term

Jean Nunnally



This committee is comprised of a Committee Chair, who is a member of the Board of Directors and is approved by the board of directors and 2 members from the general membership. These members are elected on alternating years. I (Tara Bushnoe) served as Chair for this past year and have been appointed by the BOD to serve again this year. Barbara Oates will be serving her 2<sup>nd</sup> year. It is necessary to elect a member to replace Debbie Thompson, who has served her 2 year term. Thank you, Debbie.

Jean Nunnally

Bryan Brown resumes:

Are there any nominations from the floor?

Is there a motion to close the nominations? Is there a second?

All in favor, please say aye; opposed, please say no. The nominations are closed.

All in favor of the slate of candidates, please say aye; opposed, please say no. The slate of candidates for officer, director, and Nominating Committee has been elected.

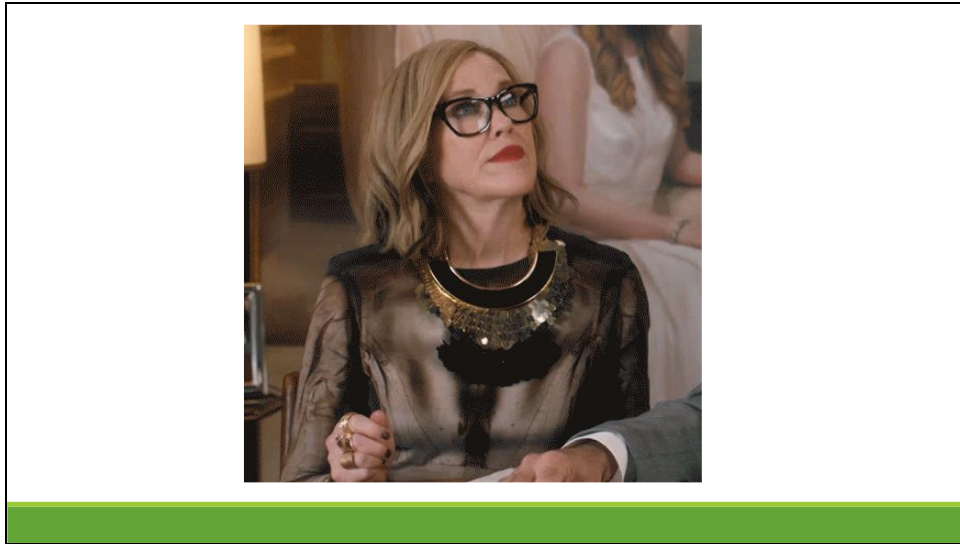


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Bryan thanks the Board of Directors and introduces Becky Etzler, Executive Director.

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Let me start by saying Congratulations to the elected officers, directors and nomination committee. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and passionate board members. Each one brings their unique talent and when mixed all together, Riverside Nature Center is represented by a strong and dedicated group of ambassadors. I thank you!

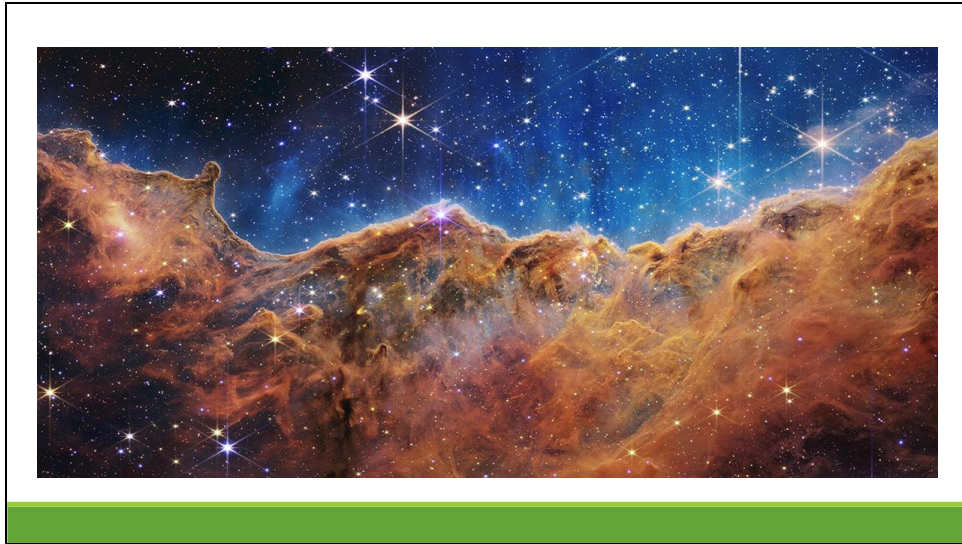
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Most of you here tonight are involved in the daily activities of Riverside Nature Center. If you are not manning the front desk, you are outside keeping our wildscape from becoming overly “wild” or you may be doing an inventory of not just plants and critters but for the gift shop or of educational materials or you may be cataloging the library, you could also be engaging some of our local youth in a bit of environmental education.




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We all have our roles and though we are all very involved, the big picture may sometimes escape us. So tonight, I will attempt to unveil that big picture much like the James Webb telescope has unveiled the immenseness of our universe. (If you have attended past membership meetings, you may have been wondering how I was going to tie in the exhibit theme.

## RNC Stars



**Membership = 209**  
**Partners in Nature**

- The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country
- Crenwelge Motors
- Peterson Health

**Active Volunteers = 102**

- Providing 3,303.9 hours of service



Imagine you're outside on a dark night. What do you see? If you're not in Houston, you'll see a sky full of stars. These stars represent the brilliant people who make up the RNC community. Let me share a bit of reality about the impact volunteers have: I calculated the monetary value of our volunteer force this past year. We know their true value is immeasurable but here it is in dollars and cents, \$84,084.26. That is incredible! A huge thank you to these shining examples of community involvement.



As NASA's Artemis program is comprised of different missions with a singular goal to establish long-term presence on the moon and to use what is learned to send astronauts to Mars – Riverside Nature Center's programs and events have a singular aim as well: to advance the stewardship of our natural environment and through stewardship to preserve, restore and protect what makes the Texas Hill Country unique and irreplaceable: it's natural environment.




Our monthly NEd Talks and NEd+ programs continue to offer a variety of adult education opportunities. From Cemetery Birding to Lt. Commander Jessica Wittner’s Pathway to Space. Add to those, the 1on1 with a Naturalist, Bird Walk & Talks, Plant Walk & Talks, and native plant sales



The preschool reading program, Sprouts is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, and continues to introduce families to RNC and nature education. A big thank you to The Community Foundation for their sponsorship. Of course, the UGRA 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Science Days and 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trips are a mainstay to our youth programs but our reach outside of Kerrville continues to expand. We hosted students from several schools from Medina and Fredericksburg.

This past summer we not only offered the family series, Nature Nights, but held a 3-day mini-camp, Plant Protectors. From this program we have created a monthly spin off, Riverside Rangers. This Jr. naturalist program is designed for children 9-12 yrs.

To reach older students, we entered into an agreement with Schreiner University. This allowed for the creation of internships and co- hosted programs, such as the Evening of -ologies.



Activities & Programs	2024
Adult	282
Family	22
Youth	71
<b>Total Number of Activities</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>Visitor &amp; Attendee Total</b>	<b>15,325</b> 3,490 youth

As at the Johnson Space Center, all mission leaders like statistics: More programs were available at RNC than there are days in the year. (#375) With 15,325 pairs of feet crossing our threshold.



With increased public contact, comes increased responsibility to provide professional and current resources. This year we launched a new website. We are continually expanding its abilities to include a member portal through which RNC members can obtain special offers and customized information. We are in the process of transitioning our CRM or customer relation management system. The new system will integrate with the website giving us a direct method of accounting and communication.



With these upgrades we hope to see a continued rise in our membership numbers. This financial gain will create a path along which we can explore expansion of our rainwater catchment system, renovation of the Nature Lab and the reconstruction of Riverscape. Earlier I mentioned the long-range goal of the Artemis project, to send astronauts to Mars. I don't see RNC traveling quite so far but with each new project, each new program, each new partnership,



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Riverside Nature Center expands its reach and influence. We are not an organization to be eclipsed. We are on a mission and we will keep taking giant leaps.  
Thank you for your attention. Let's welcome Jeff Gelsone, our Treasurer. Jeff will outline our financial standings.

### Financial Report January - December 2024

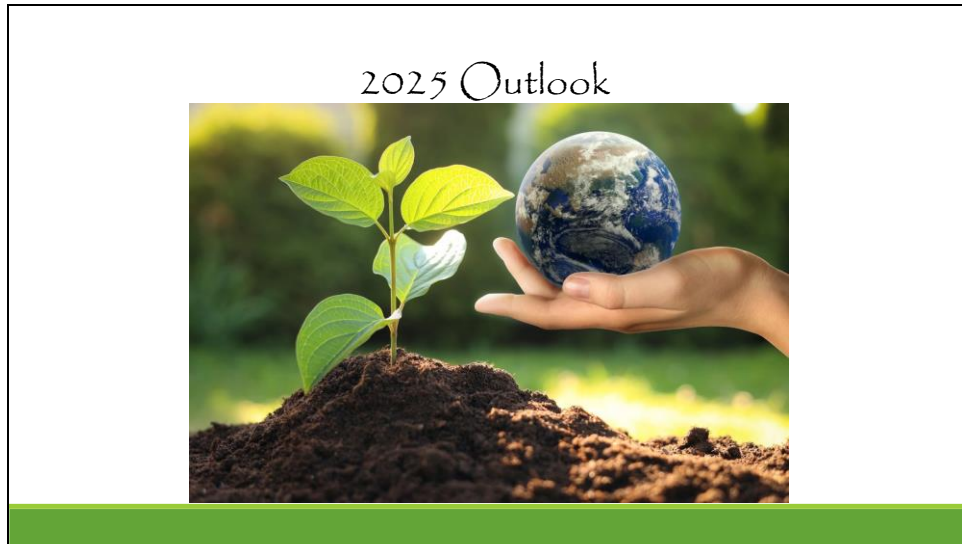
	2024	2023	Net Change	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Programs	14,023	7,870	6,153	
Plant Sales & Festivals	24,297	9,617	14,680	
Rentals	4,677	2,652	2,025	
Membership Dues	20,340	17,515	2,825	
Partnerships	2,000	1,000	1,000	
Grants	9,772	28,550	(18,778)	
Undesignated Donations	119,893	81,213	38,680	
Designated Donations	65,342	60,560	4,782	
Gift Shop (net)	7,955	9,679	(1,724)	
Fundraisers	8,778	20,420	(11,642)	
Other Income	291	2,240	(1,949)	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>277,368</b>	<b>241,316</b>	<b>36,052</b>	<b>14.94%</b>

Jeff Gelsone, Treasurer presents the organization financial reports.

<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
Programs	16,216	5,553	10,663	
Plant Sales & Festivals	18,243	7,153	11,090	
Fundraising	1,868	8,457	(6,589)	
Utilities	7,760	7,570	190	
Maintenance & Supplies	11,353	8,696	2,657	
Contract & Professional Fees	15,936	16,400	(464)	
Personnel	138,921	127,703	11,218	
All Other Operating Expenses	39,113	27,625	11,488	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>249,410</b>	<b>209,157</b>	<b>40,253</b>	<b>19.25%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (loss)</b>	<b>27,958</b>	<b>32,159</b>	<b>(4,201)</b>	

### Investment & Capital Expenditures

Investment Net Income (loss)	25,479	32,388	(6,909)	
Grants/Project Expenditures	-	-	-	
Capital Project Expenditures	-	-	-	
<b>Total Investment &amp; Capital Expenses</b>	<b>25,479</b>	<b>32,388</b>	<b>(6,909)</b>	
<b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>53,437</b>	<b>64,547</b>	<b>(11,110)</b>	



Bryan Brown retakes the podium and shares a personal story of observing a golden eagle recently. He thanks the membership, volunteers and staff.

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Bryan Brown adjourns the meeting.