

MEETING MINUTES

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Special Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, March 16, 2024

Present: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar

Purpose of the Meeting: to discuss the 2024 Board Member election scheduled for April 1, 2024, approve participation in the NMDOT 2024 Annual Hardship Sale, discuss use of equipment, discuss need for a credit card and when we can establish a local BAR.

Meeting called to order by Alex Lopez at 10:00 a.m. Five Board members present constitutes a Full Quorum.

Key Actions:

Motion by Sam, seconded by Ruby to approve the agenda as posted and presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2024 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

LTLG 2024 Election: (a.) The Secretary reported that there are 3 candidates for the 3 open board positions; (b.) Arnold and Ruby volunteered to serve as Election Judge and Clerk for the election on April 1; (c.) There will be no need for a stipend for the Election Judge and Clerk since they both volunteered.

NMDOT 2024 Annual Hardship Sale: Arnold reported that he got a letter from DOT inviting us to participate in their annual hardship sale of DOT used equipment. (a.) **Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby to approve the Letter of Justification drafted by Arnold. Motion passed unanimously.** The hardship letter was signed by Alex; (b.) **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam to approve the Hardship Resolution drafted by Arnold. Motion passed unanimously.** The Resolution was signed by Alex and Pat; (c.) **Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby, to approve the Equipment Wish List drafted by Arnold (it includes a 5 cu yd dump truck and a medium frame skid steer). Motion passed unanimously.** Wish List was signed by Alex.

Use of Equipment: Discussed what we would charge to use our equipment for splitting wood for another organization. Consensus was that we would wait on a decision since obtaining the logs from the Forest Service is still not a final decision by the Forest Service. A reference point is \$600 per day (Los Alamos operation) and a production rate of about 2.5 cords per hour by our wood splitter. We would need to pay an operator about \$20 per hour.

Arnold presented the need for a credit card to use for purchases such as fuel and oil for the wood splitter and other miscellaneous purchases. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby that we obtain a credit card. Motion passed unanimously.** Sam will look into getting a credit card from Nusenda Credit Union where our checking and savings accounts are located.

Create a Local BAR: Arnold stated that an adjustment to our revenue in QuickBooks needs to be made when we get interest revenue at Nusenda accounts. While this is a very small amount, sometimes 3-4 cents per month, we still need to adjust our budget plan. Arnold thinks that the State Finance Dept will allow a Local BAR without sending a budget adjustment request and Resolution to the State. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam that we develop a BAR if the State does not approve a Local BAR. Motion passed unanimously.**

Updates from Board Members on 2024 Action Plan Items:

1. Gravel the Plaza Area – Alex: Waiting for reauthorization from State regarding excess allocation for the Wood Splitter.
2. Entering Las Trampas Land Grant signs on Highway 76 – Pat: Signs have been ordered but DOT and they expect to install them within a month.
3. Land Grant sign for the Plaza Area – Alex: Needs to draft wording and present to the Board.
4. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold: Forest Service may consider multiple locations for delivery of the logs. Ltr sent to FS per their request by Ojo Sarco, Las Trampas, Truchas, Santa Barbara and Picuris. Arnold met with reps from these communities.
5. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Alex: T. Romero decided his family did not want to sell. Alex will discuss with the Water Association Board the possibility of selling their land where we stored and distributed therefrom the firewood last summer.
6. Managing and Coordinating Legislative requests for tours and meetings – Ruby: No requests.
7. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant – Alex: No response yet from Surveyor.
8. Sharing knowledge of Land Grant corners and boundary lines on-the-ground with Land Grant Board and members – Arnold: Arnold suggested that Board Members should locate the corners before inviting members. He will schedule a date for Board Members to view corners on the ground this coming summer/Fall.
9. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester’s Office. Pat presented a map drafted by the State Forester’s Office in Santa Fe. Pat will work with State Forester to develop a second draft for Board review.
10. Development of a Website – Pat: The website is available at lastrampaslandgrant.org. Additional information will be added. Pat requested suggestions of what information to include.

Pat suggested that we schedule a specific day each month for monthly meetings so that we can plan well in advance and ensure we meet monthly. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Arnold that a monthly meeting be scheduled on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam that meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary