**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, January 9, 2025

Present: Board Members: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar. Members: Virgil Vigil and Randy Tafoya. Guest: Larry Lopez representing Gravel Driveway Specialists (GDS).

Purpose of the Meeting: Update on the request for help with Firewood Stove at the Escuelita, Firewood processing and distribution, Appoint a Forest Service Coordinator for the Land Grant and update on Board Member Action items.

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

Key Actions: Reviewed the posted agenda. Alex proposed moving his update on the placement of gravel on the parking lot before the Treasurer’s Report and to include Virgil Vigil on the agenda after Board of Trustees updates per Virgil’s request to be on the agenda. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to approve the agenda as discussed. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed the draft minutes of our December 12, 2024 meeting. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously**.

Alex introduced Larry Lopez, representing Gravel Driveway Specialists (GDS). Larry stated that he examined the parking lot for gravel placement. He stated that the two driveways/roads leading up from the driveway form a funnel which resulted in removal of material from the driveway. He proposes to place a higher amount of gravel at the top end to direct water to the sides of the parking lot and slope the parking lot slightly to each side in order to keep water from the middle of the lot. He shared that he would need to use multiple fill material sources in order to complete the project in a few days. He acknowledged that the total amount of money available for the project is $20,000 so he would work to get the most fill material possible in keeping the project cost at that level. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Ruby to contract with GDS for graveling the parking lot. Motion passed unanimously**.

Treasurer’s Report: Current Checking Balance: $319,619.81; No change from last month’s report.

Current Savings Balance: $140.35; Last month’s balance was $140.32. Difference reflects interest.

Visa Card Balance: $73.00 paid but not yet cleared.

**Motion by Pat, seconded by Arnold, that Treasurer’s Report be approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously**.

Arnold presented an email she received from Priscilla Lopez, President of the Las Trampas Domestic Water Consumers Association, where she stated that they will proceed with installation of their wood stove and will install it as well. Therefore, there is nothing more the Land Grant needs to do.

Arnold stated that their trial run with the wood processor resulted in a rate of 2 cords per hour but he feels the rate will increase a bit as they get more proficient in processing. Alex suggested that they should set aside the smaller diameter material and process only the larger logs in order to increase production. Based on amount of diesel and oil used, Arnold felt he could recommend a selling price in order for us to recoup our processing costs. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam, that we recuperate our costs of processing by selling a cord of split wood to Members in Good Standing for $50.00 and to sell a cord to Members who are not current in their dues and to non-members for $150.00. Set aside burnt logs and small diameter logs would be sold at $50.00 per cord to anyone. Only one cord would be sold per person. Motion passed unanimously**.

Sam presented the membership application from Carlos Donaldo Arguello. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, that Carlos Arguello be approved for membership. Motion passed unanimously.**

After much discussion, it was determined that no action was needed to appoint a Forest Service Coordinator. The President will continue to serve as a key contact for the Forest Service, Arnold will continue to coordinate projects with the Forest Service. Pat will review the Carson NF plan regarding direction within the Land Grant and keep the Board updated with his findings.

Board of Trustees updates on agreed 2024 Action Plan items:

1. Gravel the Plaza Area – Alex: See paragraph above.
2. Entering Las Trampas Land Grant signs on Highway 76 – Pat: No change.
3. Land Grant sign for the Plaza Area – Alex: Alex continues to communicate with the Historical Society regarding wording for the sign.
4. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold: See paragraph above regarding Board decision.
5. Obtaining land in Las Trampas for a Headquarters Office – Alex: No change. No land available.
6. Managing and Coordinating Legislative requests for tours and meetings – Ruby: No requests.
7. Sharing knowledge of Land Grant corners and boundary lines on-the-ground with Land Grant Board and members – Arnold: Arnold will schedule a date for Board Members to view corners on the ground but will likely be next year.
8. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester’s Office--Pat. Pat will work with State Forestry to develop the next version of the map and will propose two additional large scale maps to allow for naming canyons and areas with the traditionally known names.
9. Development of a Website – Pat: Arnold suggested that the Archive documents he has be uploaded onto the website. Pat will send to Morgan for uploading.

Virgil Vigil stated that the Land Grant needs to begin paying taxes on the Common Lands and that we need to hire someone to search the archives for history of use on the Common Lands. Discussion concluded that we should begin with the Davi Fresquez property

**Motion by Arnold, seconded by Sam that meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary