**MEETING MINUTES**

Merced de Santo Tomas Apóstol del Rio de Las Trampas

Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting, Escuelita in Las Trampas, February 13, 2025

Present: Board Members: Alex Lopez, Arnold Lopez, Sam Lopez, Ruby Lopez and Pat Aguilar. Members and Guests: Jose Lopez, representing the Penasco Valley Historical Preservation Society (PVHPS); Benny Vigil, new Member.

Purpose of the Meeting: to approve the quote from Gravel Driveway Specialists, LLC for parking lot repairs; to discuss a request from PVHPS for the Land Grant to serve as their Fiscal Agent; and to provide a final approval of Firewood processing and distribution.

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. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed unanimously**.

Reviewed and discussed the quote submitted by Gravel Driveway Specialists for our parking lot improvement project. The quote includes placing 210 tons of basecourse material, backfilling the stair entrance to the church, spread, smooth, blend and impact roll the material for $20,000. Scheduled for late March, early April 2025. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, to approve the quote. Motion passed unanimously.**

Arnold presented a request from PVHPS for the Las Trampas Land Grant to serve as their Fiscal Agent. He introduced Jose Lopez who presented what would be involved in us serving as their Fiscal Agent. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that more information was needed to evaluate the impact that the added work would have on us. Jose was asked to develop a written proposal defining the requirements and expectations for our future consideration.

Reviewed the minutes of our January 9 meeting. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Ruby, that the January 9 meeting minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report: Current Checking Balance: $319,826.81; Last month’s balance was $319,619.81; Difference of $207.00 reflects a deposit of $280.00 and payment of the Visa Credit Card of $73.00.

Current Savings Balance: $331.97; Last month’s balance was $140.35. The difference of $191.62 reflects the addition of end of the year “extra ordinary dividends” from the credit union.

Visa Card Balance: $0.00.

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

Arnold presented his plans for continuing the processing of logs into firewood and proposed a distribution plan. He requested that the Board decide whether we would continue to process all the logs with our wood splitter. The Board agreed that we should continue to use the wood splitter. Arnold also presented a proposal from Michael Dominguez to load the logs onto the wood splitter for $55/hour and estimated that after all expenses the Land Grant would exceed costs by $4,500 if we provided each paid up member 1 free cord of split wood and sold 1 cord to non-members or unpaid members for $100 per cord.

**Motion by Sam, seconded by Pat, that distribution would include 1 free cord for each member in Good Standing (paid up annual membership fee); Members not paid up and non-members would be charged $100.00 per cord; Logs set aside for vigas would be sold for $100 per cord; Burnt logs set aside would be sold for $35.00 per cord and the buyer would cut the logs to firewood size on-site; Clean logs that are too large for our wood splitter would be sold for $50.00 per cord and the buyer would cut the logs to firewood size on-site. Motion passed unanimously.**

Reviewed Michael Dominguez’s proposal to load logs onto the wood splitter with his own tractor at $55.00 per hour. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, that Michael Dominguez’s proposal be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Alex stated that Tommy Romero should take his wood first before anyone else. He agreed to contact Tommy to request that he take the 10 cords of split wood that we had agreed to provide him for use of his property to process the wood.

Paid up members will be called as next priority to offer them 1 cord free. The member will be requested to identify who would be picking up their cord of wood. The person picking up the wood will be required to sign a liability waiver before loading the wood. Non-members or unpaid up members would be provided an opportunity to buy wood after all paid up members.

Arnold stated that he needs to create a BAR reflecting what was agreed to in the distribution of the wood. **Motion by Pat, seconded by Sam, that Arnold be approved to create the BAR as required. Motion passed unanimously**.

Reviewed Resolution No. 2025-8, A Resolution Approving Budget Adjustment Request(s) for Fiscal Year 2025. **Motion by Arnold, seconded by Pat, that Resolution No. 2025-8 be approved. Motion passed unanimously.**

Sam presented the membership applications from Benny Vigil, Caroline V. Garcia, Mariah Nicole Garcia and Sylvia M. Lopez. **Motion by Sam, seconded by Arnold, that these four applications be approved for membership. Motion passed unanimously.**

Board of Trustees updates on agreed 2024 Action Plan items:

1. Gravel the Plaza Area – Alex: Contractor will complete the project in late March or early April.
2. Entering Las Trampas Land Grant signs on Highway 76 – Pat: Waiting for sign for HW 73.
3. Land Grant History sign for the Plaza Area – Alex: Historical Society plans to install historical sign on HW 76. We will consider installing our own in the plaza area.
4. Obtaining wood and managing distribution of firewood – Arnold: See above regarding Board decision and details. Today’s decision supersedes the decisions made on January 9 meeting.
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 when time allows.
8. Developing a posture size map of the Land Grant by the State Forester’s Office--Pat. Working with State Forestry to develop the next version of the map in the next few weeks.
9. Updates for Website – Pat: Nothing to add currently. The site is lastrampaslandgrant.org.
10. Arnold’s items: Capital outlay request for a Skid Steer to be shared by Acequia de Chamisal and the Land Grant; Submitted a requisition for a battery and oil change for the small truck; Working with the Forest Service to obtain a Special Use Permit for the Rancho de Davi Fresques; will meet with Forest Service on February 27 on future wood distribution and cleanup.
11. Carson National Forest Plan – Pat: Has not had time to being review yet.

Comments from Members: Benny Vigil: Thanked the Board for all their work. He volunteered to help with the wood splitting project. Sam agreed to call him the next day that they plan to split wood.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.



Pat Aguilar, Secretary