



# Board of Directors Meeting – October 8, 2020

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## Roll Call

- Board Members: Jacki Gordon, John Williams, Dottie Bellinger, Ralph Gault, Suzanne Grant, Ron Grant, Mark Leyes, Lina Negrete
- Late: None
- Absent: Abraham Torres, Jose Luis Zarate
- Staff: Adriana Perez
- Guests: Larry Ginzsky, Siobhan Grogan
- Quorum: Yes
- Start time: 11:18 am (via Zoom; there were some technical problems that delayed the start of the meeting)

## Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve. Moved: Suzanne; seconded, Mark. **Approved**



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### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** to accept for September 10 Meeting. Moved: John; seconded: Mark. **Approved.**

### Announcements

Dottie reported on the status of OaxacaEvents.com. Currently the site carries just a few online events and the occasional live event. The OLL Foundation has paid the licensing fee for the website for the past three years and the annual fee is usually billed each August. Dottie contacted the licensing company, GatherBoard, and requested a deep discount in the licensing fee given the current situation and they agreed. The company has yet to send a new invoice for the next year's license, and she thinks the delay is intentional, constituting the deep discount. She will inform the Board whenever she receives more information or an invoice.

### President's Report

Jacki visited the OLL in person and was impressed with the set up. She has been getting a few emails every week suggesting fundraising from members in the U.S. Several other board members also visited the OLL in the past week. She will provide additional information under other items on the agenda.

### Treasurer's Report

Ralph commented that the OLL is still running a deficit, but less with new memberships, renewals and donations coming in in response to the OLL's posts and emails. Dottie mentioned that she is sending thank you emails to all these people on behalf of the Board.

**Motion:** to accept report. Moved: Mark, Seconded: John, **Approved.**

### Outstanding Business

#### Update on Use of the Library

Siobhan reported that the OLL has been open for the past 2-1/2 weeks and more than 100 people have visited. Nearly everyone has followed the rules (mask, use sanitizer, allow temperature to be taken) with no problem. Usually people like to browse but they can't do that now; most people understood but a few objected to that. People come in for all kinds of reasons, to buy books, pick up or drop off, and join/renew memberships. Also people have come in with children but generally don't stay once they know they can't browse. Mark said just one member came in and kept taking his mask off to talk; he kept reminding him to put it back on.

#### Next Steps Based on Current Usage

Jacki referenced John Dumser's letter on expanding the opening of the OLL to allow people to browse the stacks. Several board members expressed concern over the health risk of people handling books on the shelves. The OLL is a member of the Oaxacan



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community; to open further when all the other libraries in Oaxaca are still closed, including all the LPP libraries, would not be being a good member of the community. In terms of other English-language libraries in Mexico, the Merida library is open with limited services, similar to the OLL, but the San Miguel library is closed. Dottie suggested that the reopening committee meet again to develop some creative alternatives, such as having a computer at the front table with a separate monitor attached that can be viewed from the other side of the table by a patron while a volunteer searches the catalog for them. A selection of books/new books could also be made available at the front.

**Motion:** Open the library further, up to 20 people at a time. Moved: John; No second.

**Motion:** Maintain existing protocol and Reopening Committee will explore additional safe options for access to library materials. Ron added a friendly amendment that the planning should include how to respond to press inquiries as to why the library is open at all when all the others in Oaxaca are closed. Moved: Ralph; seconded: Ron.

**Unanimously Approved.** Jacki said she would contact letter signers with response.

**Note:** The Monday after this Board meeting, Oaxaca was moved from “Yellow” to “Orange” status, indicating greater health risk.

### Late Fees

Jacki asked how the date, October 1, for re-imposing late fees had been determined. Siobhan responded that the Reopening and Book Committees decided when to reinstate late fees. 20 pesos per item is the maximum late fee and it can be waived in special cases.

### Construction Update

There is now a temporary wall that narrows the entrance to the library, although there is plenty of room for people to pass through. There’s no information yet as to what will replace it. John said he understands that there will be some type of open coffee bar there once construction is completed. The owners are still having problems with permits, which is slowing construction. Adriana commented that the water issue continues. **Action:** Jacki asked John to work with Adriana to resolve the issue.

### Events

Larry G. reported that all OLL outside events and tours, including *Hoofing It* hikes, are on hold. Last year these programs contributed more than 220,000 pesos in income for the OLL, so there is a substantial impact on the OLL of not offering these programs. He’s now helping Omar and Nic, drivers and tour guides that previously worked with the OLL’s tours, to offer small group hikes/tours, which will be offered separately from the OLL. Ralph raised the question of whether Larry would be sharing the *Hoofing It* mailing list with them. Jacki expressed concern that people might join a tour but haven’t finished a quarantine. By sharing the mailing list we might be complicit in putting visitors and even visited villages at risk. This does not negate the fact that both Nic and Omar are scrupulous in observing safety protocols.



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**Action:** Jacki asked Tanya and Dottie to meet with Larry about sharing the mailing list and differentiating this effort from the Hoofing It. Dottie asked Jacki to join that group.

Larry also shared from the Social Events Committee the recommendation that a large lona (poster) be printed with a picture of a previous OLL ofrenda along with a memorial to those that have passed away due to COVID and a tribute to Oaxaca's first responders. It would be hung along the passageway to the library. Ralph said that Adriana can pay for it under her authority. The Board does not feel it is appropriate at this time to support a Thanksgiving dinner.

**Action:** Several members of the Board said it was a great idea about the poster/lona and encouraged the Social Committee to go ahead.

Ron reported that most members of the Events Committee are not coming to Oaxaca and he is unable to commit to a regular schedule as he is returning to the States for an extended time. Jacki said that people would like us to do some virtual events. It would be great for morale and people would like it who can't come to Oaxaca this year. However, the existing committee members are not interested in planning virtual events.

**Actions:** Jacki will solicit volunteers for a Virtual Events Committee. John said he's willing to present in-person or virtual events.

### New Business

#### Work Group to Review and Clean Membership Database

Ralph noted that there is a lot of old data in the database; it needs cleaning/updating. He would like to have several people go through the database and decide which are records to be deleted and decide whether and how to contact people listed. Dottie said someone from the Comm. Committee will participate and Dottie also suggested Lina for the group. Dan Walsh and Adriana will also participate.

#### Membership Form

Siobhan said the Book Committee is trying to track down people who have books outstanding and the OLL sometimes doesn't have their email or telephone number. Evidently the front desk has not been making student members include their email and phone number but does not do this for other types of members. We need to make sure we instruct staff to collect that information on the form **for all types of members**.

**Action:** Adriana will instruct Oscar; Dottie will send a note to Cathy Pekel to alert volunteers.

### Committee Reports

- **Outreach Committee:** They have published some information in the eBlast with updates on the organizations with which OLL has mutual contracts.
- **Book Committee:** Looking for new Mexican vendors of English and Spanish language books



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- **Communications Committee:** Dottie is sending thank you emails to members joining, renewing or donating.
- **Events Committee:** Covered in previous agenda item.

### Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for: November 12, 2020, via Zoom, at 11:00 AM.

### Adjournment

**Motion:** Adjourn. Moved: John, seconded: Dottie. **Approved.** Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm