

OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2017

Agenda Item	Action Needed/Person
<p>1. ROLL CALL: Present: Rebecca Severeide, President; Siobhan Grogan, Vice President; Del Highfield, Treasurer; John Dumser, Director, John Burch, Secretary; Tom Holloway, Director; Michelle Verduzco, Director; Jeannie Kes, Director; Mimi Haberfeld, Director.; Adriana Perez, Library Manager; Guest, Judith Schwartz</p> <p>2. There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 10:40a. Out of deference to our visitor, Rebecca ceded the floor to her. Judith asked to attend the meeting in order to discuss her concerns over the increase in membership fees. The substance of her reservations and proposed solutions is attached in two pages she herself provided. The discussion which followed generally found agreement by the Board to form a sub-committee to investigate the feasibility of some of the suggestions. Some, however, were viewed unfavorably, notably, dispensing with the volunteer appreciation events, and levying a donation of \$50.00 pesos for the Introduction to Oaxaca program. Judith was asked if she wanted to remain for the meeting, or had anything else she wanted to discuss, and she said she was satisfied that her concerns had been heard and excused herself.</p> <p>3. <b>President's Report</b> Rebecca first welcomed Adriana to the meeting. She began her report by saying that the performance reviews of staff were completed. As soon as the 2017 budget was approved, contracts for Nancy and Adriana. She said that all participants agreed that it was a positive experience. She said she had assured staff that there would be no surprises in the performance reviews. She then observed that, thanks to Michelle's careful "road map," the Christmas party had been a success and had built good will. The name tags were a good idea as there were so many new people who attended. She then reported on the rental agreement renegotiation, which must be concluded by March 31, 2017. The landlord is offering a two and a half year term at no increase; thereafter, we can renew for another two and a half years at a 15% increase in rent. We will need their approval for any expansion of the roof terrace. Jeannie said she thought the leaky roof at the entry was the responsibility of the landlord, but Rebecca</p>	<p>Board, after AGAM, February 12, 2017</p>

replied that we had put the roof there, and it was thus ours.

Rebecca said she had debriefed with Mickey, Janet, and Bud concerning continued running of the Bazaar series, despite the fact that none of them is able to participate any further. John Dumser Miranda said he had spoken with Mimi, Elaine Russell, Linda Harbert, and Christine Charnesky about the possibility of their jointly working on the project, but had no definitive response from any of them. Rebecca observed that the debriefing had resulted in good notes, and that the quarterly Bazaar format had been more profitable than the single event of previous years. Mimi then suggested that the prices might be too high, and that Mexican patrons might be given a preferential price. Tom observed that the purpose of the Bazaars is fund-raising, and Rebecca suggested that further discussion be tabled for the March meeting.

Rebecca then turned to a discussion of the joint capital campaign to be mounted to benefit both Libros Para Pueblos and the Library. Specifically, the money is sought to expand the roof terrace, provide for greater and better office space for Libros, and a bodega space for the Library. Fifty members who have been generous in the past will be approached to donate before the general membership is solicited. There is a committee for the purpose, composed of John Dumser Miranda, Alan Goodman, Kathy Mazetti, Rebecca, Enid Lynn, Jacque Sheinberg, Siobhan, and Jose Luis, Director of LPP. The objective is \$400,000.00 pesos.

John Dumser Miranda moved that the Board endorse the work of the committee: Siobhan seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

The Board then moved on to policy considerations. We reviewed the guidelines concerning the policy of not promoting/publicizing either religious or political activity. Specifically at stake this time was the proposed Womens' March of January 21, to be held in downtown Oaxaca. Discussion which ensued resolved itself in the decision to allow publicity to appear on OLL bulletin boards, but not to publicize in the eBlast. Michelle questioned the legal consequences of foreigners staging a demonstration in the city. We were told that the organizers had applied for, and were sure of securing, a permit from city authorities. A question arose concerning titles of certain lectures the OLL sponsors, e.g., one about the political and economic history

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of indigenous communities. Agreement was reached that this was a question of history, as opposed to an attempt to shift government policy. In any event, the Events Committee should decide how to title their presentations. John Dumser Miranda accepted the amendments. Approval of the change was unanimous.

Rebecca then reviewed the role of the Past President. She defined it as providing continuity, historical perspective, and advice to the current President. The Board remains responsible for policy development, change, and implementation.

Siobhan discussed the formation of a Development Committee. The committee now consists of Del, John Dumser Miranda, Doug Harmon, and Siobhan, with assistance from Rebecca. Sandra Thompson has agreed to do a workshop for the Committee on January 30, 2017.

Del asked how the Library calendar is maintained. Rebecca said Adriana handles the schedule for Library space while Joannie Harmon handles all other event scheduling.

- 4. Treasurer's Report** Del opened his remarks by saying that the Library would be liable for a tax payment of \$48,000.00 pesos in March, 2017, which left his projected 2017 budget with an approximate \$11,000.00 peso deficit. Tom questioned the \$60,000.00 pesos planned to pay for repair of the roof over the entrance. Rebecca replied that that would be part of the funds sought in the capital campaign. With little further discussion the proposed budget was accepted by the Board, and will be presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on February 12, 2017.

- 5. Old Business** The key inventory is complete. Tom and Mimi worked on it together, and came up with a system of numbers, such that a small sticker on the lock has a number, corresponding to a sticker of the same number on its key.

Rebecca asked about the Annual Report., John Burch replied that he was about two-thirds done, and would be working with Larry Ginzkey to maintain the format of the previous year's report. Rebecca explained that she was managing the Poser Point presentation to be given at the meeting.

**6. Committee Reports** John Dumser Miranda said that the Volunteer Committee is actively seeking a new Chair, as he is to become the Vice President for 2017. The next Volunteer Appreciation event is fixed for Saturday, February 18, 2017. The committee is also looking for new staffing for the Monday morning Introduction to Oaxaca.

For the Nominating Committee, Rebecca said that Bill Watts will continue on the Committee. If two more members do not present themselves, Bill can nominate them himself.

Del asked that the cost of DVD rental remain at \$10.00 pesos/week, and that books removed from the collection be sold at \$20.00 pesos. Both activities earn a respectable income as is.

For the Building Committee, Tom reprised the components of the rooftop construction to be financed through the proposed capital campaign. Specifically, the Libros Para Pueblos space will be enlarged, with a more stable roof, a new bodega for Bazaar supplies will be constructed next to the washroom, and the portion of the roof extending back to the Libros offices will be paved over to make it consistent with the existing space.

Jeannie reported that the Events the committee sponsors continue to attract large groups of patrons. The January/February 2017 calendar is full, despite an earlier intent to cut back to a more manageable schedule. There will be five presentations by Mary Randall, which are always popular. The Street Art event by Linda Martin attracted 59 attendees. The Out and About trip to Mitla was attended by 44 people. Between January 3 and 11, 2017, events were attended by 283 people. A decision has been made to cut back on film presentations, since we haven't a license to show them. Jeannie said a presenter has identified herself. She is a filmmaker, and is creating a documentary about children who have been deported from the United States, and have returned to Oaxaca. She insists, however, that the event must be free. The committee also plans an event manager training. Carlos has been very helpful in copying memory sticks, thus making them easier for presenters.

Rebecca reported membership currently at 1500 persons, with children's membership the largest category.

She then saluted the work of members whose terms expire with the AGAM in February—Tom Holloway and Mimi Haberfeld. Rebecca reviewed their many contributions while serving and expressed the Board's gratitude

The next meeting was fixed for Thursday, March 9, 2017, at 10:30a, at the Library.

By acclamation, adjournment was at 1:05p.

Respectfully submitted,  
John M. Burch, Secretary