

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 2023

16 February

Jacki called the meeting to order at 11:04

Board members attending: David Myler, Doug Long, Dottie Bellinger, Jacki Gordon, Peter McCallion, John Burch, David Shallenberger, Abe Torres, Lina Negrete, Phil Schlak

Absent: Jose Luis Zarate, Marirose Lescher, Mary Phillips

Visitors: Ian Hawley, Bliss Wilson, Ralph Gault, Gail Ament, Carlos Landa, Fred Boskovitch, Larry Ginskey

Approval – Agenda

David Myler moved to accept the agenda; John Burch seconded; motion passed.

Approval - December Minutes

David M. moved to accept the agenda; Peter M. seconded; motion passed

President's Report

- Jacki thanked Bliss and her crew for putting on a great boutique. Both vendors and shoppers were pleased. She also thanked the Board as the OLL brings activities back and renovations are completed.
- Ciudad los Niños is selling raffle tickets for their fundraiser and she invited people to purchase them. First prize is a new car (!).
- She continues to hear good feedback all around for what's happening at the OLL.
- There needs to be more coordination among organizations to avoid overlap of events on the same days.

Treasurer's Report

The OLL is doing well financially; activities are generating a good amount of revenue, as is typical for this time of year. 2023 Budget will be discussed later in the meeting.

Old Business

Nominations Committee – Nominations are being publicized on the website and newsletter.

Tech Committee – Doug reported that they are continuing to improve the kiosk and automate advertising. Also working on streaming events and doing testing on some events for now. He's very optimistic that it will work well. Jacki commented that we may be able to charge for attending events by streaming. We could also build up a library of lectures. David S. said there needed to be some sort of chat function during streaming and Doug said that is coming. He added that this is a great way to keep people involved with the library even when not in Oaxaca. Gail asked about signed releases by presenters, and Doug confirmed they have those. Jacki suggested that the Events Committee develop a policy about speaker releases for videotaping.

Excursions: Hoofing It and Out & About – Going well, have had a few glitches with sudden cancellation by a site, and sites have been substituted or the event canceled. Jacki said we are looking for volunteers to coordinate both O&A and HiiO next season, as Larry is retiring from that position. Planning to pilot a short email survey of satisfaction by participants. Carlos mentioned that there are issues regarding HiiO, and Jacki invited him to the next ExCom meeting.

Jacki proposes that sometime in March we have a thank you party for Larry, along the lines of what the OLL did for Oscar. Bliss said any treat must include chocolate, his favorite flavor. Carlos says Phil Stevens should also be invited to this event. And ask Larry who he wants to attend. Social and ExCom will work on it, estimate \$4000 MXN as budget and will let Finance Comm know.

Legal & Constitution/bylaws: The Exec Comm has retained attorneys in Mexico City to formalize the revision of the Constitution in Spanish and English. Additional legal and organization issues were mentioned in the conversation, and the Exec. Com. will continue discussions with them after the changes to the Constitution have been made.

Jacki noted that we have previously been told that members have to have an RFC to “officially” vote. This needs to be clarified. Idea from Bliss: offer help and information to members about obtaining an RFC. It was noted that Margie Barclay wrote and posted lengthy advice.

Boutique – Great success, didn’t have as much food as before, but all went well. Total revenue: \$18,284 MXN. Bliss asked the Hotel Mariposas if we could put an ad on their wall, and they graciously offered to allow that for any OLL event.

Café – David M. talked with the hotel, and they will offer a discount for those with membership cards. David will continue discussion with them to determine what the discount will be. Jacki commented that the OLL could still offer coffee if desired on a donation basis. However, that service has always lost money and was a lot of work. In addition, the volunteer who used to staff that service has left. Consensus for now was to keep our café closed. Gail asked if the hotel could be asked to offer bagels.

Kids programming –Saturday kids and teens programming recently started, and they had seven participants in one and eight in the other at the first meeting. Adriana has been the driving force behind getting this up and running.

Intercambio – David M. said that it’s hitting 80 people in person on Saturdays. One person has asked if she could attend without knowing any Spanish. She could sit in if she wishes but it’s helpful for participants to have at least a little Spanish or English.

Outreach/NGO Fair – There is too much work for and updating of contacts to hold the fair this season. It was decided to postpone this event until next year in March.

Document Storage - Jacki commented that the OLL needs to have a way to store historical documents. Tech Committee will pursue.

New Business

Proposed Budget 2023 – Presented by Ralph Gault, Chair of the Finance Committee. Ralph went through the proposed budget.

- The Finance Committee is developing way to do bequests; discussing with other organizations.

- David M. made a motion, seconded by Peter M., to thank the Finance Committee for their inclusive work on this year's budget, involving all concerned. Approved unanimously.
- David M. moved to accept the proposed budget in general, understanding that final approval will be at the next Board meeting and at the AGAM. Budget to be submitted to Board members at least five days before the next Board meeting. Seconded by Doug L. David S. wants to look at the budget in more detail. The motion was approved.
- Ralph noted that he needs better figures for the fall events and will meet with those committees.
- David S. requested that the information provided to the Board before the next meeting include assumptions the Committee made about the budget.
- Doug L. noted that there is no Membership Committee and may need to be reconstituted, since that item is important in the budget. He will send out membership data to the Board.

Live Streaming Events - Jacki commented that we may be able to charge for attending events by streaming. We could also build up a library of lectures. David S. said there needed to be some sort of chat function and Doug said that is coming. He added that this is a great way to keep people involved with the library even when not in Oaxaca. Gail asked about signed releases by presenters, and Doug confirmed they have those. Jacki suggested that the Events Committee develop a policy about speaker releases for video.

AGAM planning - Exec Comm. will set the AGAM date based on availability of the revised Constitution and availability of candidates to attend the AGAM.

Other Business

OLL Inclusion in a book about world libraries- The Book Committee said they had received a request from people doing this book. May 1 or 2 is when they will be coming to take photographs. Dottie B. suggested that there be a notice in the newsletter that they will be taking photographs on that date and Peter M. said the Book committee would stay in communication with this group and see that the visit is communicated to the membership in advance.

Security – There was a concern about female employees being in the library alone at closing time. We need a volunteer to be at the OLL for the last 45 minutes or so on Saturdays and at closing time during the week. Cathy Pikel is trying to find volunteers. Jacki said she would meet with the staff before the next Board meeting to assess their needs. **To be placed on next meeting's agenda.**

Christmas dinner – Carlos reported that Christmas dinner cost the OLL \$60,000 MXN. He suggests that the price be increased for next year to at least come close to breaking even. Carlos is in charge of the Christmas dinner and needs guidance from the Board. **To be on next meeting's agenda.**

Peter moved to adjourn the meeting, Doug seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.