

OLL Board of Directors Meeting

May 19, 2022

Meeting called to order at 11:00

Roll Call

Members present: John Burch, David Shallenberger, David Myler, Mary Phillips, Jose Luis Zarate, Doug Long, Marirose Lescher, Jacki Gordon

Members absent: Dottie Bellinger, Lina Martinez Negrete,

Members absent due to Zoom failure: Abraham Torres Fregoso, Peter McCallion

Visitors: John Dumser, Larry Ginzkey, Phil Schlak, Bliss Wilson

Approval of April Minutes

David Myler moved to approve the April minutes; John Burch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

David Myler moved to approve the agenda; John Burch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Hal Miller's passing was noted as well as that of Sandra Gunn.

The husband of board member Lina Martinez Negrete is seriously ill and hospitalized and Lina is recovering from knee surgery. Jacki will be sending flowers and warm wishes on behalf of the BOD.

A reminder that we will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 am.

The Eblast will be monthly until we have more visitors in Oaxaca.

President's Report

Jacki is meeting next week with an association called Education USA, a program of the US Department of State involving higher education opportunities. More information will be available after that meeting.

The facilities committee was thanked for their work. All was well done and there's more to come. Aleksandra Hawley is the chair of that committee.

There is a plan to have a meeting with committee chairs to reinforce and encourage working together.

Jacki mentioned that all materials to be distributed to the BOD and others should be sent to the secretary by Monday afternoon.

Treasurer's Report

Marirose reported that we lost less money in April than we expected. The library is financially sound and we have significant savings.

Old Business

Facade Update

David Myler reported that the facade is finished. Doug Long is going to make the present sign above the entrance more permanent until the location and size for the sign is finalized. David commented that anything that will be done by the hotel on street-facing signage **may** include the library sign. David hasn't seen what the hotel intends to do. They have said that a sign for the library is part of the plan. A bike rack is also a part of the plan.

Marirose Lescher asked about what charges there could be. David's guess is that the hotel owners are going to pay for it. Jacki suggested offering two memberships available to hotel guests as a gesture of good will. There were a lot of ideas suggested on how those memberships could work. Jacki suggested that board members to think about the ideas discussed and to come to the next meeting with plans in mind so that one could be finalized.

Writing through – Outreach Committee

Writing Through, a program for teens, was offered by Steve Scena. Jacki reported that this program was extraordinarily successful. The theme students wrote on was “taking risks.” Participants read some of their works at a celebration final session to which families were invited. The program was organized by each student paying \$100 pesos and if a student came to all sessions and the celebration, they got their money back. Adriana was a driving force of this experience and a **big thank you** was given to Adriana, Nancy, Enaje, Jill and Siobhan for offering support.

Governance committee - Donataria

The process for OLL obtaining Donataria Autorizada has been underway, for what seems to many members of the OLL, a very long time. Below is the report of the most recent try to get closer to finishing the process.

On Friday, April 29, Adriana (library manager), Isabel (accountant), and Marirose met with the OLL Notario, Mario Ramirez Rodriguez. Mario’s colleague, Gerardo Amado Perez Alvarez, who speaks English, joined them half-way through the meeting.

OLL representatives were able to obtain answers to some long standing questions.

A. Many civil associations do not strictly adhere to their respective Constitutions. However, since the OLL is revising its Constitution for Donataria Autorizada, it is better for the OLL to fully revise the Constitution to match its practices.

B. The corporate Constitution in Mexico is the equivalent of both corporate Articles of Incorporation (filed with the Secretary of State), and Bylaws (rules for how a corporation is managed) in the U.S. If the OLL wants to change corporate procedures (like terms for officers) the method for this change is a change/amendment of the Constitution, which is not a particularly difficult process.

C. Members listed in General Assembly minutes must have an RFC~tax ID. The notarios recommended that members without an ID be identified as honorary or adjunct members. (Note: The OLL Board is investigating what is needed for members to obtain an RFC, something newly mandated for all non-citizen permanent or temporary residents.)

D. General Assembly minutes must be certified in every year where a new officer is elected. Since the OLL elects officers in both even and odd years, this means the minutes must be certified every year.

E. The money that people pay to attend an event or hike should be designated as a “donation,” not as a “ticket.”

In reporting to the board, Marirose mentioned that part of the frustration in getting Donatoria Autorizada is that the library doesn't have enough experts to help us. Bottom line is we need a budget to pay the “experts” we will need to get the whole process finished.

Jose Luis Zarate, head of LLP, (which has donataria autorizada status) suggested we ask the notario and accountant, and a qualified translator, to come to a special board meeting so that we can ask questions.

A meeting with the notario has been scheduled for June 6th.

Leadership retreat - scheduling

The retreat will be scheduled for mid-to late summer. Both facilitator and location are to be determined.

New Business

July 4/Canada Day event

The social committee has spent some time on this. Linda Hannah will host. There will be catered food from Chef Juan Carlos. Larry Ginzkey says they are in good shape with the planning. There was discussion of perhaps getting competitive bids for future catered events.

Facilities – proposed actions and budgets

John Dumser spoke on behalf of the committee. He had questions: How much can we spend? Can we get some sort of guideline concerning what is wanted?

David Myler moved that the name of the committee be Facilities and Design and that it be resurrected as a standing committee and an active agent. John Burch seconded. Discussion: Jacki questioned what are the limits of an active agent. John Dumser mentioned that they'd like to have some authority to make decisions so that they could move ahead and get started working on things. The motion passed with all but two votes.

John added that the first phase would be focused on the most critical repairs which would take them through July with a budget of 70,000 pesos. The second phase would take them through October.

David Myler moved that the board approve the phase 1 budget. David Shallenberger seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

LGL recommendation – technology & fundraising committees

Jacki reported that since the major fundraising is over we will suspend our use of LGL.

Slack

This intranet app will be used for communication between members of the board and by committees. Doug Long explained the software.

Website

Tyler Van Hoorn joined the meeting to explain the significant changes he's made to the webpage as part of the Technology Committee. He walked us through what he has done and why he felt those things were necessary.

The next step is to do usability studies, which will begin next. He thinks that hiring a professional translator to make it accessible to Spanish speakers is necessary. The Board expressed thanks and enthusiasm for the direction the website improvement is taking.

Board member responsibilities descriptions

Tabled for next meeting

Hoofing It and Out & about – need new coordinators

Larry Ginzkey sent a packet of information detailing what has been and could be done with Hoofing It. Jacki mentioned that she knows some people who would like to volunteer but don't want to take over the program. She will forward their names to Larry.

Marirose suggested that we keep the program under OLL auspices.

Phil Schlak suggested that a well-known driver take over the season of hikes.

We need to pull in a member of the library that would be a leader or leaders for the hiking program. It could be a team of people.

These programs will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting; David Shallenberger seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Adjournment 1:08

