

**OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 17, 2025**

Comprehensive Minutes
(Action items are bolded)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at: 11:05 a.m.

Present: Bonny Weil, Gail Ament, Carol Ringold, John Dumser, John Hunter, Abe Torres, Adriana Pérez Maldonado, José Luis Zárate, & Ian Hawley.

Present on Zoom: none

Absent: Ralph Gault, Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau

GUESTS

Jeff Stewart (See new business at the end)

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

Motion to approve by: John Hunter, seconded by, Carol Ringold. None opposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our new treasurer, John Dumser!

David Stall comic-book art classes for adolescents are scheduled to begin next Tuesday. We have 4 people signed up. It's a 5-week course.

Writing for English-speaking/bilingual adults by Steve Scena, has about 12 signed up. Jose Luis is taking the class and gives it a thumbs up.

Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art (FOFA) Monica Diaz met with Adriana and Gail. Monica asked if we could use the library to recognize the winners of this years' competition for 18 to 35 yr. old artists. **We'd like to have a workshop for making Catrinas here prior to day of the dead.** FOFA has artisans willing to lead groups. A hands-on workshop would be useful. It'll be in Spanish.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Dumser worked with Adriana and Ralph to get up to speed as our new treasurer. Thanks to all for stepping up. The foundation provides two OLLF reports indicating expenses and contributions at the end of each month. We get a notification from Gloria regarding donations. Reports do not include email addresses. Neither Jeff nor Doug Harmon send out thank-you notes after receiving donations. At the end of the year, OLLF sends an IRS tax acknowledgment. Consult with Adriana for contact info on

monthly donors. **Probably everyone who sends a donation should get a thank you note. We can take this up at the next meeting.**

A transfer from the foundation of \$56,000 mxn was made at the end of June. Our income for the month of June was \$118,154 mxn. The July big ticket item was the July 4th BBQ. We had ticket sales of \$31,000 mxn in round numbers.

Budget numbers this month do not include the cost of the July 4th OLL event. Kate Hart took in \$5,980 pesos last month for book sales.

Can we add a line for OLLF transfers somewhere? It shows up as other income on QuickBooks. Everyone please use oaxlibrarytreasurer@gmail.com account for official treasurer business

Motion to approve this month's treasurer report by: Ian, seconded by: Abe. None opposed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Donataria Autorizada: From our lawyer July on 14.

"Del SAT Donatarias no hemos tenido respuesta. Están tardando mucho en responder. Les mantenemos al tanto. Nosotros vamos a salir de vacaciones y el SAT también, yo calculo que para agosto tenemos la respuesta oficial. "

Elections Nominating Committee: We have BJ Ferguson and would like 1 or 2 more volunteers. There are two directors at large who are up against term limits. Jose Luis and Viviana. Gail & Bonny would like to continue another year in their current positions.

Let's look at our current lists of volunteers for new volunteers.

Revisit policy on digital nomads at the request of the Book Committee and front-desk volunteers (you read their petitions in the Committee Reports)

Discussion to rescind the policy to charge for digital nomads approved previously by the board. Look at policies on the website to see who is currently being charged, people who are holding meetings for instance. Let's encourage frequent users to at least get a membership.

Motion to approve rescission of charging digital nomads (with encouragement to become library members) by: John Hunter, seconded by: John Dumser. None opposed.

The policy is rescinded. **Policies should be posted in a more visible manner. The board will revisit the policy of accepting packages for members at another time.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Committee: Went \$7,400 pesos over budget on the Holiday Picnic. We couldn't set up for bar sales because the hotel operated the bar. Pricing for the tickets was not adequate. We need more detailed costs from vendor(s) going forward so we don't go in the hole on these events. Enaj has resigned as chair.

Book Committee: Wants board minutes in a "timely manner." Do we need to oblige this request? Gail is liaison to this committee. Chevon would like the minutes the first week following the board meeting. If we send a draft to the book committee, we should send a draft to everyone. Since we have liaisons

to each committee, news can be disseminated that way, and policies are not put into place until the minutes are approved the following month. Draft minutes will continue going out one week before each board meeting. If board members need to see draft versions sooner, Bonny can produce them. Chairpersons needed: A few committees are in need of chairs. Facilities & Design, where David Myler is de facto chair right now and there are three on this committee. John Hunter will step up as chair for outreach. Thank you, John! Carol will chair fundraising. Thank you, Carol! We still need a chair for the social committee.

OTHER

None

NEW BUSINESS

1966-2026: OLL 60th Anniversary Report by Jeff Stewart, chair of fundraising for the event.

The anniversary planning is being tackled on two fronts:

1. The Celebration. (John Dumser, John Hunter, co-chairs) Numerous possibilities; designate an ad hoc committee; leadership. **A Plan will be presented at the August Board meeting.**
2. The Fundraising: (Jeff Stewart, chair) name the campaign, rename OLLF account; designate an ad hoc committee; leadership.

Jeff Stewart has the floor to present the current plan. (Ralph Gault sent Gail the Finance Committee's approval and his own approval for this plan.)

Members of Jeff's group are: Carol, John Hunter, Bliss, & Kit Dickey in Oregon, who will be here later in the year.

Jeff attended the AGAM in March, saw the numbers, (he's also the treasurer for the foundation), looked at donations, grant requests, and realized we only raise money when there's a campaign. The last campaign was 5 years ago, and now the funds from that campaign are down to about \$5,000 usd. OLL is taking on average, about \$8,000/yr. from the foundation. There's about \$30,000 usd in OLLF, so we're going to run out in a few years' time with no new fundraising campaigns. Jeff and Carol decided we need a new campaign, while David and Gail added that the upcoming 60th anniversary of the library will be in 2026.

The two bifurcated groups are related and will work together. Jeff has sent working notes to the board. Right now, it's still vague. The name isn't great: *Sustain Our Future* campaign. The previous campaign title was: *Ensure our Future*. We like the word endowment, but it's a no go. The \$30,000 usd funds with OLLF are currently considered, *Ensure Our Future* funds. Let's rename that money to whatever we call this campaign. If this committee can raise \$60,000 usd we'll have \$90,000 usd. That's a talking point. One purpose for the campaign is library operations, because the library always operates at a deficit. The other is to put money aside for emergencies, and could be used to buy our own building down the line. The proceeds from the campaign will be set aside in interest bearing accounts that can grow with time. In an emergency, our \$30,000 usd reserve fund could be wiped out. We need to build up a larger one. As a 60-yr old institution we should have a bigger endowment earning more interest.

Can we think of a larger vision for the OLL? How do we compare with other libraries? What makes us unique? What kind of services or attractions can we have that are different or special?

We're the only English language library in Oaxaca; we let people take books out of the building which is also unique. Some people have moved here because of the library. We could do more outreach to Oaxaqueños regarding our Spanish language resources.

Our baseline is, ask for the money. We haven't *asked* since covid. That will revolve around personal outreach. We have lists for members and foundation donations for the last 5 years. We'll meld the two lists, and see who can be personally contacted. We'll have around 5-10 ambassadors hosting small events; dinner, drinks, high tea. We're working on a pamphlet for fundraising. We'll print 500 – 600 copies. They'll be available at the library and at fundraising events. Jeff and his partner Dave will donate the funds for the pamphlet and a high-end bookmark. (Thank you!) These materials will be in English. Jeff is guessing 93% of the money will come from English speakers.

Our Timeline: We're already talking now. The core campaign will run November thru March, with personalized outreach in October. Jeff is working with Bliss and Joanie Hamon on donation requests. Managing the database and data mining will be Kit and Jeff. Bliss is on newsletter; Carol on terrace talks. There will be 1 or 2 terrace talks to celebrate the History of OLL with David Mylar or someone like him, then a pitch for money. We'll have some info on the website, in the newsletter, and signage in the library. In November we will launch with a presence in the library, and a donor request attachment to the newsletter that's being drafted now. There will be a pitch at Thanksgiving. At the end of January, a boutique. The celebration committee is considering big fiesta.

In April the committee will dissolve. After that, Carol will head up an ongoing fundraiser committee. We'll capture who donated what. A portion will be used to make up the operating deficit, and the rest, allocated according to the board. **It will be the library's responsibility to make sure if someone wants to earmark their donation to a specific program, there will be a method in place to track and to follow-up on the use of those funds with the donor.**

We are housing the 60th anniversary fundraising group as a subcommittee of fundraising, with Jeff as chair. **The celebration task force will be headed by the two Johns, who will report next month to the board on what they need**, and to the president between meetings.

Many thanks to Jeff for his energy and dedication in starting this committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by: John Hunter, seconded by, John Dumser. None opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at: 12:25 pm