

OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 30, 2025

Minutes (Comprehensive)
Action items are bolded

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am

Present: John Dumser, John Hunter, Ralph Gault, Bonny Weil, Carol Ringold, Ian Hawley, & Abe Torres (@ 12:03 pm)

Absent: Gail Ament, Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau, Jose Luis Zarate

GUESTS:

Jeff Stewart and David Iverson

GOALS OF THIS MEETING

GROUND RULES: A REMINDER

Remember we are all volunteers dedicated to OLL.

Civility is required as always.

Moderate your voice to avoid introducing anxiety to the meeting.

Raise your hand to be called on in an orderly fashion.

Express any concerns succinctly.

With copies of the agenda getting printed downstairs due to a lack of AV, Bonny read the OLL Statement of Civility to the room.

IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

What happened? (Jeff Stewart)

Jeff handed out copies of the print brochure. As you know, I've resigned, and sorry for that at such a crucial moment. But it was untenable for me; impacting my health and marriage. Let's look at the brochure. We tried to create something substantial. Asking at the high level for \$6,000 usd. That's a vacation. This brochure is not Libros para Pueblos. This is the cornerstone of the campaign. This was going to be broken down as well as used wholesale. My critique is that there was no mention of the word, "celebration" on the cover. So that was needed. We formed a team in March, & started in June. Originally, we were one group, then separated into two around June. The anniversary celebration decided to do a separate task force with the community outreach component only, and a kick-off in November. It was super confusing where each group belonged in the hierarchy. We are a community. It was not public knowledge that there was any kind of a split. Pages from the brochure were scheduled to be posters. When we needed to get posters out, Gail said, "I hope they're not all white". 98% of

our donors are white. Raising funds essentially needs to target donors. My vision: A digital brochure on the website, attached to email, a print copy sitting out on library tables, distributed at Out and About events, and every place that the library is. If you want to research costs for the brochure John D. has the vendor. The centerfold was going to be in the newsletter and on Facebook. None of that has happened.

Community service is very cogent. What are our demographics? Old people who are really concerned about health care.

Let's talk about the campaign committee, which consists of Kit, Bliss, Carol, myself and John H. Ian has been involved with the brochure. Creation of the brochure by all 5 on the committee. We did not take a vote. Jeff, Bliss, and Kit were in favor.

Carol says, Kit was a no, and Bliss was a no. The split was right within the group. Carol said at the time, 'this is way too long. it's boring. No one will read this. Let's scrap this and do something shorter and more succinct.'

What precipitated the crisis? What was the boards' role and Gails' role?

Our crisis began with Tanya's letter. Carol says her concerns were raised and disregarded.

Tanya talked to a number of library members who were unhappy with the brochure.

Nothing was brought to the board. Carol says a mea culpa, because she didn't do that. But board members were already involved. People brought this issue to Gail, but not to the board.

Jeff says. If you don't do a fundraiser now, you will be completely broke in 3 or 4 years. Jeff says he is done.

Additional viewpoints: Ian appreciates your efforts and so does Bonny. Ian, Ralph, & Bonny had no idea there were any issues.

Does this reveal any structural deficiencies?

We should write up committee procedures and follow them. Bear in mind that committee votes don't count. The only official governing body of the OLL are votes completed by the board and a majority of the membership. Jeff and David take their leave of the meeting.

THE BROCHURE

The problem is the donation page, because it's in dollars, and because one symbol is from South America. We didn't want to send this to the lawyers working on the Donataria. There are 300 brochures. They cost about \$45 pesos apiece. This could work for certain things.

Digital brochure and print brochure:

Results and recommendations of the Oct. 28 meeting of the 60th Anniversary fundraising subcommittee were, 4 against and 1 for using the print brochure. **Instead of doing this one-time annual fundraiser, perhaps we should do something every tax season. Finance can add a yearly fundraising campaign that is separate from other activities.**

Motion by John Hunter not to use the brochure for fundraising. John D seconds.

Discussion: The celebration is aimed at the broader community. This brochure is not aimed at the broader community. Gail announced to the board there would be a task force reporting to her; a statement, not a discussion. Along with Gail's announcement, we were going to have a celebration party. The idea of a fundraising thermometer was dropped. The reporting mechanism is not coherent at all for renaming the initiative. It's clearly an outreach initiative. Is it going to be a party? The brochure is for people stepping off the bus. Ian had lunch with a member who gave a big donation. We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the library. We want to proceed with personal fundraising efforts. We'll start with all the people we know. Final point. This brochure is not perfect but it's not bad enough to pull, given the harm it will do. The brochure is not discouraging anyone from coming to the library. It's temporary, and it's good enough. On March 15th use of it ends. Whatever's left can get pulled. We own the rights to the brochure. Marirose has told us that SAT is never going to look at our website. They're looking at what the culture ministry sends them. Yes, this could end up with someone criticizing it. We nominated 3 Oaxacans for directors at large and we've benefited from their addition. Next year we'll be in a different place. Should we be making it available to people throughout the library for the next few months until the end of high season? Siobhan doesn't want to see the brochure in the library at all. Let's run it by all the committees for their input and then vote.

All in favor: John Hunter, John Dumser, Carol Ringold. All opposed: Abe Torres, Bonny Weil, Ian Hawley, Ralph Gault. The motion does not pass.

Motion by Bonny Weil to send the print brochure to committee chairs, take a global tally of votes from all committee members, and bring results to the next board meeting. The board will tally votes, decide by the entire count, and then the board will vote. Seconded by John Hunter. Discussion:

Gail and bonny will put together the letter and run by the board before it goes out. The letter will say that print copies are available at the front desk for pickup and committee meeting discussion. Come by, pick it up, take it to your meeting. Request tallies by Nov 15 latest.

All in favor. None opposed.

Going forward we have to make a brand, so people are seeing us, understanding us. Now to pick some donors, we have an entrée into this population. We have people on the task force doing social media. We need a message. Something that says this is who we are. It's a narrative. What kind of narrative do we want to put out. We are going to ask people personally, so we don't need a brochure. It's not going to be the bulk of the fundraising, this brochure. It's going to be calls and personal contact. A target list. We go talk to these people, tell them what we do, what the money is for, etc.

Outreach committee is very involved in the celebration. We'll have a big party next December. For our opening event, we have permission from the hotel, we're bringing in food and vendors

John Dumser made the motion to keep the digital version of the brochure on hold. Ian seconded.

Discussion: **Bonny will keep a copy of the digital brochure in the secretary files.**

All in favor. None opposed.

Committee chairs please do not try to influence the voting process in your committees. Some respect for the work done is needed.

SUCCESSFUL CONTINUATION OF THE CAMPAIGN

We still have Four on the committee, actively raring to go. Carol, John H, Kit and Bliss. We are working on a short one-page blast to go in the Newsletter of the 15th. At this point a paper copy was circulated. (See attachment below.) Gail will have a lovely letter, some positive testimonials in the newsletter, on email, and on the website.

Before the next meeting we will discuss with Doug how to do donations on the website. We're looking into a Stripe account, and how we can be added to wills. We'll work with Doug to encourage all kinds of donations. So far, there is no way for Canadians to donate and get a tax break. May we have language under the donate button that acknowledges we have a significant number of Canadians and their contributions? Can Ian put that together for us? Every donation now is going to this campaign. Make sure Adriana and Coni know that. We want to track people and thank them. Right now, we have a clipboard. Coni and Carol will thank people. If the donation is tax deductible, use OLLF.

Anything over \$500 gets a thank you note. Or should it not be anything from \$50 and up? Why limit thank you notes? Let's setup a standard thankyou letter. Who can do that?

People will see the big blast in the newsletter.

Where do we go from here?

We will be totally transparent so we don't have any hard feelings going forward.

ADJOURNMENT at 12:35 pm

Celebrate 60 Years with the Oaxaca Lending Library and Donate!

The Oaxaca Lending Library is a vibrant hub where cultures meet, friendships form, a multicultural community thrives and has for the past 60 years. Thanks to generous donors and dedicated volunteers like you, we've built something truly special—and we need your help to ensure the OLL flourishes for another 60 years.

Please help us guarantee the continued growth of this wonderful place, a place that welcomes all through its doors, to read, listen, laugh, learn, and share.

Your generosity will help us:

- **Expand**—develop and enlarge activities for all ages
- **Build**—partnerships with local organizations
- **Evolve**—continue to grow and adapt to an ever changing Oaxaca
- **Reach**—deepen our connections with the local Oaxacan community

Make your gift today:

- **Online:** <https://oaxlibrary.org/donate>
- **By check:** Drop your check at the desk or mail it to: Oaxaca Lending Library Foundation, c/o Umpqua Bank, P.O. Box 1820, Roseburg, OR 97470 (or drop off at the library) Please write "OLL Fundraiser" on the check's memo line and be sure that your name also appears if a third party institution issues the check.
- **For our US Friends:** Please go to the OLL website to look at other giving options such as using your Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA.
- **Planned Giving:** Consider including the OLL in your will or an annuity program.
- **Monthly giving:** Become a sustaining donor with automatic contributions through the OLL website.

Our goal is to raise 1,200,000 pesos.

The future of our community is in your hands. Thank you for being part of our story.

• By Pesos; Give ^a your swath of pesos to Loni (at the front desk) or Adriana (office manager). You will be issued a receipt and the monies will be deposited in the local OLL bank account.