

**OAXACA LENDING LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2025**

Comprehensive Minutes
(Action items are bolded)

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Called to order at 11:02 am

Present: Gail Ament, Bonny Weil, Jose Luis Zárate, Ralph gault, John Hunter, John Dumser, Carol Ringold, Ian Hawley

Absent: Abe Torres & Viviana Ruiz Boijseauneau

GUESTS: Dottie Bellinger, David Shallenberger, David Iverson, Jeff Stewart, & Siobhan Grogan

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

See new business

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES

Motion to approve by: Gail Ament, seconded by John Dumser. None opposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New chair of the Social Committee: Bonny Weil

Outreach chair: No chair yet; Jeff is essentially in charge.

Facilities de-facto chair: David Myler

Fundraising Committee chair: Carol Ringold

Oaxaca Events: Thank you to Dottie Bellinger and David Raphael. Status of \$74 credit

Nominating Committee members: B.J. Ferguson and Carlos "Pancho" Landa

Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art (FOFA): There will be an October workshop on Catrinas

Local African Americans and the OLL: There are some hard feelings from an event last year. John Hunter and Jim Thompson are going to La Cosecha this Saturday to do outreach in the group.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Aug 8 transfer to Vanguard VMXX fund, current yield 4.22%

Motion to approve the monthly treasurer's report by: Ralph Gault, Seconded by, Ian Hawley. None opposed

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Donataria Autorizada: From our lawyer August 18:

"De la respuesta del SAT no tenemos noticias todavía. Si es un proceso lento y además no se puede hacer nada más que esperar. La autoridad no acepta presiones para acelerar su respuesta. De otros clientes tenemos respuesta favorable, pero ha sido 3 meses después de haber presentado la promoción.

Pero estamos pendientes del buzón y les informaremos.

Saludos a todos en el Consejo."

NEW BUSINESS

Thank you, Dottie, for 8 years of service!

Excursions chair report from Dottie Bellinger: Excursions is planning 70 or so hikes this year, the typical number. We had less tourism last year, and this year we'll be offering new smaller public transportation hikes. We hired Tanya LaPierre to be the coordinator for Out & About. Jackie Gordon has a serious illness for which she is getting treatment in Arizona. The hikes cost \$1,200 pesos / full 8-hour day. Tanya would need about \$13,000 pesos per season. We want to do a better job on the tours, providing chaperones who know the hike well. Tanya will train chaperones and translators. We sent a budget to the treasurer and the board. When a program grows, it's best led by someone who's paid.

Let's get a detailed budget for Tanya's services. Do we add 30% to cover prices since we don't have Donataria status? The board agrees this is not necessary.

David Shallenberger guest speaker: Democrats Abroad will be sponsoring a panel for people who have been wanting an anti-gentrification discussion. We want to hear from the people leading the movement to get a meaningful discussion started. D.A. is willing to host and wants to partner with the library. This could be another terrace talk. **Does the library want to be part of this discussion?** Various concerns voiced that this may become too political. If it's sponsored by D.A., let's continue to have their name on it. The goal is holding one or two public sessions. Because what we get is always filtered, it would be educational. A sensitive topic, to be approached with some skill and careful thought. A conference or broader discussion on anti-immigration is a valid topic that should be geared to the whole community. Is this a program we would fold into our

celebration task force 2026? D.A. can also hold this event at Holy Trinity. The timing is not urgent. David has no speakers in mind yet. **Questions: Is this just a govt. regulatory issue? What is our strategy? Spanish, or English? Who would attend? What is the outreach?**

The board will discuss and get back to David within three months.

1966-2026: 60th Anniversary Celebration Task Force

John Hunter & John Dumser:

We want to work with all the committees with OLL and be in concert with them. Take a look at the one-page summary of the plan.

The objectives for 2026 are to be as inclusive as possible to increase the base of support for the library. We have a noticeable absence of locals. We'd like to start brainstorming new ideas. Whatever we start, we need to build on it & follow up. We could do something each month during high season with a fundraising component to it, and plan specific donor sponsored activities. Something for the parents who bring their kids in on Saturdays. Poll Ninos Adelante, Jovenes Adelante, and the intercambio **We have no data on Saturday intercambio attendees. Ask them what they would like in addition to the Saturday sessions.** Maybe re-start the Café on Saturdays.

The celebration taskforce is not fundraising per se. Outreach is focused on the fundraising aspect.

Will there be a closing event? The *Calenda Literaria* is a street procession. Schools teachers carry names of books with designs following the books. It's a different way to celebrate.

Jeff's subcommittee has received \$1,000 usd for expenses. Gail will donate the first \$500 usd to the Anniversary Celebration.

The board made a motion to support task force work including contact with each committee.

Motion to approve by: Bonny Weil, second by Carol Reingold. None opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising Committee: chair is Carol Ringold

Bazaar in December 2025 – no chair yet

OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn: by Gail Ament, seconded by John Hunter. None opposed

Adjourned at 12:39