

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:32 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Bennett.

Board Members Present

Absent

Nancy Bennett
Christine Coffield
Trevor Herasingh
Daniel Horton
Toni Madrid
Erin Monroy
Lily Sweikert

**Subject to approval at the
February 22, 2024
Cert Local Gov't Meeting**

Also present: Cynthia Nieb, Economic/Urban Renewal Director
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Aimee Hill, Building Code Official
Erika Lively, La Junta
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES: October 26, 2023

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the October 26, 2023 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Trevor Herasingh, seconded by Daniel Horton, that the minutes for October 26, 2023 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS STATEMENTS: Beginning Balance for 2024 – \$7,000.

\$600.00 – Savings Places (virtual) for four members

\$5,190.00 – Cash match CLG History Survey

Chairperson Bennett asked for a motion to accept the financial report. A motion was made by Lily Sweikert, seconded by Toni Madrid that the financial report be approved as given. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (Nieb):** Haven't gotten anything yet but will keep trying. He did say that this winter (January, February, and March) would be very difficult to communicate with him because they had quite a few things to do.

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- B. **CLG Grant Application (Nieb):** The grant is in ahead of schedule. Will be working with the same team again.
- C. **Colorado Lynching Memorial (Herasingh):** Reached out to Rebecca Goodwin but haven't had any forward movement. Have also talked to Erika and she believes she has some stuff she could contribute.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CLG Director Comments:

1. First Methodist Church wants to get listed on the register. I'm trying to encourage them to go for national and state register because if you get on the national register, you automatically get on the state register. Rick and I are talking with them about listing with us because it would be faster. They're trying to go in for tax credits and also for a state historical fund grant.

Toni Madrid: I suggested to Rotary that we do a historic walking tour to include QR codes. The walking tour would essentially be something that has a map that people can follow and walk around town. It would get people to come to the downtown. They could maybe see what the buildings looked like before the 1960's. My fellow rotarians were very excited about this and we formed a small committee and did some brainstorming. We're going to contact Trinidad. They have a walking tour and see how they did it. We'd like to start bringing it together by Early Settlers Day and Tarantula Fest. Maybe we could get people to reenactments downtown as an event. Perhaps the college theater, high school theater, or the Picket Wire.

B. Governing Board Comments:

1. Erin Monroy: After looking through the minutes, I noticed that the CLG annual report was due. Did that go okay?

Cynthia Nieb: The report is in. I would like to have a CLG plan for how we address surveys, do we want plaques everywhere, do we want to do education? It would be nice to have something that's robust. The Certified Local Government grant will pay for this.

Erin Monroy: I attended Trevor's presentation at Saving Places where you talked about the Mr. Zion Church. It's for sale.

Trevor Herasingh: If we could somehow get that building, we could preserve a lot of history here.

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cynthia Nieb: If enough information could be gathered about that church, you could get it designated. Then you could qualify for a state historical fund grant.

Trevor Herasingh: We got to the point where we found all the documents during the History Colorado. The lady that did all of the documentation had them archived.

Erika Lively: Me and my family are familiar with that church. They participated with that church but I believe what you're talking about is some of the history elements. Someone in Rocky Ford did some incredible research about all of the valley and tried to encompass blacks, Asians, Hispanic and white all together. A lot of documentation was left to the Denver Public Library in a particular division. Also, a suggestion for your project, in Nicodemus, they created the idea of Prairie Lady or the businessman. They had them cut out of metal and put the QR code on it. It was a way to draw attention so that QR code and see what it was about.

2. Cynthia Nieb: Our CLG could certify someone on the local register. You have to have their permission. We would get the satisfaction of doing something that's positive for our community. We've only designated one property in La Junta and that's out at the Air Force hangar 103 at the Indusial Park. That's a very rare resource because they are only meant to last for fifteen years.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson