

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 5:20 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Bennett.

Board Members Present

Absent

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

Trevor Herasingh

**Subject to approval at the
March 28, 2024
Cert Local Gov't Meeting**

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

Ben Mason: I'm interested in possibly serving on this board and doing what I can to help out the city and my local community.

Chairperson Bennett: We have your application from last month.

MOTION TO ACCEPT BEN MASON ONTO THE CLG BOARD: Madrid

SECOND: Monroy

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously

MINUTES: January 25, 2024

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the January 25, 2024 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Erin Monroy, seconded by Toni Madrid, that the minutes for January 25, 2024 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS STATEMENTS: Beginning Balance for 2024 (\$7,000. - \$5,835. = \$1,165.)

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

\$5,190.00 – Cash match CLG History Survey

\$45.00 – Rocky Ford Gazette Ad

Chairperson Bennett asked for a motion to accept the financial report. A motion was made by Ben Mason, seconded by Christine Coffield that the financial report be approved as given. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (Nieb):** Still having a problem getting a hold of the archeologist there but will keep working on it.
- B. **CLG Grant Application (Nieb):** They haven't responded yet, which is typical.
- C. **Colorado Lynching Memorial (Nieb):** At yesterday's Rotary meeting, we were talking about the survey and some of the facts that came up with the survey including the 1902 lynching and we had great interest among the Rotarians on working on that project and moving it forward. It was amazing how they said they wanted to be a part of that.

Toni Madrid: Through Rotary, we have roughly ten or so people that are part of the Historic Walking Tour Planning Committee. We met again yesterday. We're going to try to identify ten buildings or sites to start with. We're still doing research and learning things like owner permission, how to market, are we going to be thematic? Those kinds of things. I definitely feel like we're moving forward with some action items. We don't know what we're doing exactly but we have the excitement for it. If things start getting torn down because they need to get torn down, then we have to try to grab our history somehow and this feels like a very effective way to do it. Other towns like ours have done it and it feels like it's doable. After talking with Cynthia, she said you need people and the Rotarians have stepped up in full force.

Cynthia Nieb: We also discussed that maybe connecting with the city, the new city website that we're building, to have it so that everything would be stored there. We also talked about whether we would have vinyl clings on the windows so that you can put them up then take them down. I sent those ten people our survey report along with all of our forms.

Toni Madrid: We're hoping it will grow or have more than one walking tour. There might be a walking tour about the Green Book Lynching, things like that. Everybody's going to bring ideas to the table after looking at the survey so we can get some different opinions.

Cynthia Nieb: MJ Romano had a lot to say. She's the head of the Presbyterian Church here in La Junta. The Presbyterian Church was originally right across from where the lynching occurred over in the Courthouse Square. She wondered if any of her parishioners were involved with any of that. Presbyterians are Scottish and the Scottish are connected to the clan. She was being very open. So, we talked about maybe putting something on that corner with the county's permission. Which would involve talking with the commissioners and/or the

Preservation Commission. Having something that talks about the history, some kind of commemoration or ceremony would be nice.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CLG Director Comments:

1. **First Methodist Church application.** Next month we are going to be reviewing the application for the First Methodist Church here in town. They turned in their application last night. They have already filled in and submitted an application for the Colorado State Register. So, they've done their research. It's pretty incredible. Once listed, they can go to the State Historical Fund and request moneys and there's also tax credits that they can get. We're turning the corner where people are understanding the benefits of really engaging with historic preservation.

People usually don't go to look at a new building unless there's something in the new building that is fantastic like Sutherlands. People go usually to a site, to a town, to a location because of its cultural or historic importance. That's what they come to see. Even though it might not turn out the revenue that was previously discussed, it does turn out revenue in other ways in terms of people visiting, tourism. That's something that can't be measured in dollars. Look at something like the tennis courts. I wrote a grant for Save America's Treasures, which is the reason we were eligible to apply for that is because it is a historical landmark park. That's how we were eligible on the National Register to ask for over \$250,000 from the feds. Same thing with the State Historical Fund. I'm applying for the match for that because the City park, for the tennis courts, is pretty darn expensive. It's over \$500,000 to remodel it and take care of it. It's not just rip it down, build it up. There are a lot of other things to consider.

2. **Saving Places.** Just want to make sure that Erin, Toni and Nancy were able to get their connection to the Savings Places Conference. They have not charged us yet. That's \$600 that we owe so I will get in touch with them

B. Governing Board Comments:

1. Erin Monroy: I want to give Cynthia a shout out because I think that you had a lot to do with the Methodist Church, giving them lots of guidance.
2. Toni Madrid: Are there any funds for any kind of walking tour? Are there any grants to write for, to pay for the clings, to pay for the development of the QR code?

Cynthia Nieb: There's a couple of grants. I was thinking about the LORS Foundation. There're also the T-Mobile grants that we could look at. There's a lot of different places for small amounts.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson