

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5:34 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
April 25, 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

MINUTES: February 22, 2024

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the February 22, 2024 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Trevor Herasingh, seconded by Daniel Horton, that the minutes for February 22, 2024 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

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

LANDMARK APPLICATION REVIEW: United Methodist Church of La Junta and Educational Building (Committee: Kelly Jo Smith, Betty Lopez and Donna Hestand).

Cynthia Nieb: The application is Grade A quality in terms of the amount of information, the research that was done, and the writing is incredible.

Kelly Jo Smith: We were really fortunate to have great records kept of the history of the buildings. There are two buildings on the application. The church, which is 111 years old, and the educational wing that was built in the 1950's.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL BUILDING AS A LOCAL LANDMARK: Madrid

SECOND: Horton

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (Sweikert absent)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (Nieb):** Still can't seem to get any traction.
- B. **CLG Grant Application (Nieb):** We did receive the grant for \$25,000. Now we need to send out requests for additional bids. The next step is to do a preservation plan to figure out what we will do after the survey. There were only five grants given out this year.
- C. **Colorado Lynching Memorial (Herasingh):** There hasn't been any traction on this. I was planning to go this week to re-energize that conversation and see if we can get a response.
- D. **Historic Walking Tour (Madrid):** The Rotary continues to work on the Historic Walking Tour. We did look at fifteen different sites that are already laid out in the survey. Maureen is working on a list and a map. Our next meeting is to decide on how many we will actually do and what the flow will look like. Then we will move on to technology. We want them to stay downtown for a while, passing by the other shops. Hopefully the lynching site can be included as well. We also talked about it being a self-guided tour, possibly going inside some of the places, and maybe expanding to a ghost tour. Scott Eckhart used to do ghost tours. We also talked about partnering with Otero College and doing recordings using various people in the community

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CLG Director Comments:

1. Currently working on putting together a proposal, along with Michael Yerman, that focuses on not just the downtown but the commercial buildings that are along Highway 50. A real comprehensive plan to take a measurement of the number of buildings that we have that are blighted, not up to code, not completely fully utilized. Do we have leakage anywhere or whether we have what we need to continue to thrive as a community in terms of businesses here in La Junta.

This will be an assessment of not just the buildings but of the infrastructure. We need to know how much it's going to cost to do the road in that area, the sidewalks, water mains, etc. We also need to do some kind of creative thinking about what could be put along Highway 50 and downtown that would push people to come to the downtown or even attract new residents.

B. Governing Board Comments:

1. Trevor Herasingh: We need some place for people that are interested in our town to get information on our attractions, needs and so forth.

Cynthia Nieb: There will be a 411 area on the new city website, hopefully coming in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson