

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 26, 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
Toni Madrid
Erin Monroy (via Zoom)
Lily Sweikert (via Zoom)
Ben Mason

Trevor Herasingh
Daniel Horton



Also present: Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk
Aimee Hill, Building Code Official/CLG Director
Erika Lively, La Junta

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Erika Lively, La Junta, rose points about the Colorado Lynching Memorial and how there are more minorities involved in La Junta than just black minorities; spoke about an idea about oral history; the library has a recording device that was obtained through a grant that could be used for the oral histories of the walking tour. This idea could be visited by not only those whom will speak about lynching, but also other minorities. There is a survey involved as well that Aimee Hill will delve into later on.

MINUTES: August 22, 2024

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the August 22, 2024 minutes. Hearing no corrections or additions, a motion was made by Toni Madrid, seconded by Lily Sweikert, that the minutes for August 22, 2024 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS STATEMENTS: The annual budget of \$7,000. has been encumbered as follows:

Saving Places	\$ 600.00
Survey Cash Match	\$5,190.00
RF Gazette Ad	\$ 45.00
<u>La Junta Rotary</u>	<u>\$1,165.00</u>
Balance	\$ 0.00

MOTION THAT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS BE ACCEPTED AS PUBLISHED:

Madrid

SECOND: Sweikert

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Aimee Hill, new Director of CLG

- a. Director comments:** We need to figure out where the board will go, what should the board be doing? Currently, the board is at a standstill. We do have another city's bylaws that we can base this CLG's bylaws from. Question being what is the reasoning for being locally designated, or the importance of being locally designated.
- Chairperson Bennett gave an example behind the reasoning for being locally designated, rather than state designation. A comparison was made to another city's historical context and the importance of protecting historical plots. Director Hill agreed and made a mention of what we can do locally for local designation, such as surveying the historical area in La Junta and inform the citizens of benefits for being designated.
 - b.** Hill asked the board if it would be preferable to have CLG meetings on a separate day from URA; boards are mingling too close to each other and discussion topics tend to blend into each meeting that shouldn't be happening. The board for CLG does not need to meet monthly, it could be a bi-monthly meeting, or a quarterly meeting. This is up to the board to decide a final set time.
 - c.** There is a Google group for other city's CLG groups, and possibly the group could be used to gain new ideas or to bounce ideas back and forth towards the direction of how CLG should operate.
- Mason: Agreed with Director Hill on needing some direction on goals and where the CLG should be.
 - d.** Hill asked the board if it is possible to make the surveyed homes for the Historical Survey could be awarded local designation, such as how designation was similarly done with the Plaza Building.
- Madrid: Brought up how the group could use more 'guidance', as the agenda really hasn't changed since joining the group. There was a training for saving spaces, but that was about it. For me, I would like to know what should we be doing, what we should be focusing on. Is preservation the main goal of a CLG?
 - e.** Hill to send out a guidance handbook to board members to visit and gain new ideas/knowledge about how other CLG groups handle their meetings and what their focus and goals are. There are also ordinances for CLG, too. To the group's knowledge, had never received any ordinances concerning CLG. Hill to conduct more research on bylaws for CLG, and goals can be set based on the board's direction. Hill asked if there were any other questions regarding the direction of CLG.
- Bennett asked Hill if she wanted a specific set time voted on at tonight's meeting. To which Hill responded that the only day to really separate and have the meeting would be every second Thursday of every month. The meetings, again, do not have to be monthly. They can be quarterly as well.
- Sweikert was unaware of any "inter-mingling" between CLG and URA; Mason clarified that it has happened quite a bit in the past. To which Sweikert made clear to the group that she was unaware.
- Coffield: Works until 5:00 pm on weekdays, and that she may possibly not be able to make most of the meetings if the meeting date and time were changed. Sweikert to give

up seat for someone whom will be able to attend the meetings regularly, as time does not allow for much flexibility.

- Mason: Suggested having a special work session on the direction and goals of CLG first before deciding on an alternate meeting date/time.
 - f. Saving Places conference set for January 29, 2025 through February 1, 2025; would like at least two members of the board to participate in the meeting, which will be held at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs. There is a \$600 grant for participants. Madrid and Mason both volunteered to be on the conference committee.
- Mason and Bennett inquired about how many people are covered under the cost for the \$600. It is currently not known, Hill to do more research regarding the conference.
- Bennett asked about the amount of board members the CLG can have; minimum is 5. Bennett also brought up the intent of the survey, and if it is only specific to black communities and not all minorities.
 - g. Historical Survey letters have gone out, most of them have responded with only a few of the letters bouncing back and being undeliverable. A few participants had questions, but they are more than willing to participate in the survey. Hill asked Erika Lively about the speakers on minority groups, to which Erika replied that she herself and Darlene Derbigny, La Junta, would be willing to participate. Would like more minorities participating in the project. Erika Lively agreed to opening it up to the community for any minority input. Hill to ask questions, and currently the meeting is to decide the next step.

B. Governing Body Comments:

1. Madrid: moved to remove Daniel Horton from the board of CLG, and to open the position up to interested applicants.
 - a. Hill suggested that we do not fill Daniel’s position as it will bring the board member count down to 7. We are needing an odd number so there cannot be an even vote when it comes to motions made, etc.
 - b. Sweikert asked the reasoning behind not filling Daniel’s vacant seat; was certain the reasoning behind adding more board members was to reach a quorum for voting, which was an issue in the past.
2. Madrid: amended motion to move to remove Daniel Horton from the CLG board, and to not fill the position at this time. Seconded by Mason. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Sweikert: asked as to why the meeting decided to remove the Lynching Memorial from the agenda. Does this mean that it has been vacated indefinitely. It is, however, open for discussion. Was under the impression that the board agreed to move forward with accepting the Lynching Memorial. Bennett mentioned that they haven’t just forgotten it or getting rid of it. More information is needed and what next steps could be for the Lynching Memorial. Hill reported that it won’t just “go away”, but it will be on the back burner and not on the agenda, so there is time to think and discuss what next steps are and how long project could take.

Motion by Mason to table any further discussion of the Colorado Lynching Memorial until there is a direction and bylaws decided for the CLG entirely. Seconded by Coffield. The motion carried unanimously.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson