

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 5:32 p.m. in the Power Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Bennett.

Board Members Present

Absent

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

**Subject to approval at the
October 26, 2023
Cert Local Gov't Meeting**

Also present: Cynthia Nieb, Economic/Urban Renewal Director
Debra Fraker, Admin. Asst.
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette
Erika Lively
Elaine Lewis
Erin Monroy

MINUTES: September 28, 2023

There was no quorum last month so there are no minutes.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: May 2023

Beginning Balance	\$14,000.00
Cash Match for Survey on the eastern part of town	(\$5,000.00)
On the Road Conference on August 25th & 26th	(\$9,000.00)
	\$0.00

Chairperson Bennett asked for a motion to accept the financial report. A motion was made by Trevor Herasingh, seconded by Daniel Horton that the financial report for July 2023 be approved as given. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **Bylaws and Ordinance No. 1579 (Horton):** The Ordinance is going to council for approval on Oct 2nd. This will separate the Certified Local Government Board from the Planning Commission Board.

B. **Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site:** Angie Bell and Ben Zandarski gave a brief overview and answered questions of the board members.

- The National Environment Police Act makes sure the decision makers understand the environmental effects. We're here because of the cultural resources that exist on Pinon Canyon. The army is a very practical and pragmatic agency. There has been some storm damage to some of the homesteads. We're required by law to preserve these buildings. There are many options in doing this. We don't want to be demolishers by neglect. So we look at some of the alternatives to preservation, we do restoration. Can we find another use for these buildings. We came here to try and pick brains of those who are doing this in the community. We want to take a look at all of the ranches. We have 33 complexes on Pinon Canyon.
- The land was first acquired in 1980 and developed from private land. Some of the land was purchased and some of the land was obtain by imminent domain for military trainings.
- Section 110 is a program to preserve cultural and historical resources. Basically, the army was sued, the army won the lawsuit. So, they put out a memorandum that we are going to cease maintenance on historic army buildings that no longer have a mission use. They wanted us to report an adverse effect under Section 106. In their view, and the view of the court, is that Section 110 does not supercede the regulations laid out in Section 106. The program does not need to exceed what's laid out in Section 106.
- We are currently reporting adverse effects for deferred maintenance. We're not trying to figure out what is the best way to give back. How do we deal with the ranches that we have now. What are the appropriate litigations?
- We need to have a conversation with the community that's why we're reaching out beyond our consulting parties to everybody we can find to see what would be appropriate.
- We have a programmatic agreement which allows for daily maintenance with stipulations. Some buildings have been maintained and used.
- We are currently looking into grants.
- Public engagement includes: Section 106, meeting people who are already grouped together who have the knowledge of historical preservation and who are familiar with the laws and rules. Then we'll move to the general public in the form of attending fairs and festivals. We have testimonies from people in the area. And are also working with Senators.

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- We're having these meetings because we are realizing that the Pinon Canyon ranches are the buildings we are not using. Right now, the buildings on Ft. Carson are being used.

Cynthia Nieb: I think the board needs time to think about and discuss this information at our next meeting and maybe come up with a statement to provide you. Cynthia talked to the archeologist Benjeur Zanderski She believes a more thorough exploration of the materials is warranted. That information is forthcoming. The county also has a CLG Board that would like to look at the background materials. They have scheduled a tour.

Colorado Lynching Memorial

Cynthia wants to get a committee together to try to find information on these 3 people. Jovan Mays, Dara Ollman, Montana Stevenson. Nancy Bennett, Trevor Herasingh, Toni Lynn Madrid, Erin Monroy all said they would be on the committee. If we are planning on doing any kind of memorial at the site we would need to let the county know what our intentions are because the property is on county land.

Erika Lively can get us in contact with Jovaan Mays. She thinks she is related to him.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. CLG Director Comments:

1. **On the Road Conference:** Went very well. Trevor Herasingh got a standing ovation on his speech on the Black American in La Junta Colorado.
2. Ed Stafford performed his 12-page poem on La Junta.
3. Covid made an appearance at the conference.
4. Over 100 people attended the conference.

B. Governing Board Comments:

1. There were no governing board comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Debra Fraker, Secretary

Nancy Bennett, Chairperson