



Yvonne Boudreaux
President

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General Meeting Minutes

Date: 31 January 2016
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation
12700 Montgomery Blvd NE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order

- The meeting was called to order by Yvonne Boudreaux at 1:15 PM
- Yvonne welcomed the group and thanked them and all the other volunteers for their continued commitment to preserving the species.

YIPS: Yvonne recognized the commitment of the stewards who have devoted years of time to sustaining the urban populations. She also welcomed the new volunteers, Michael, Loretta and Priscilla noting that without the combined efforts of all the stewards the urban colonies would be compromised. She also thanked the volunteers who fostered the prairie dogs that could not be relocated, Frances, Jim, Wendy and Margaret who provided care for the compromised prairie dogs. Prairie dogs including Tiny Tim, Caroline, Hummer and Lito who received care and love (and vet bills) but spent their remaining days in a loving environment.

Thanks was offered to Frances for editing the publishing the newsletter.

Kudos was given to Sharyn D for the images she created that gleaned much interest on the Facebook

NIPS: The APS superintendent who lied to the media saying that they removing the prairie dogs from Chelwood had already cost \$40,000.

To anyone participating in the thrill kill contests.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 meeting: The minutes were approved as issued.

3. Reports of Officers

President's report: Y. Boudreaux

- Paul Eilers and Annabeth Fieck, long time prairie dog supporters have left the state and settled in Colorado. Annabeth's position on the board coordinating tabling events and interaction with other rescue groups is open if anyone would want to volunteer.
- The Weems Artfest, a long time staple for Prairie Dog Pals has come to an end. Health and other issues lead to the decision to end this event that benefitted PDP both financially, and as a tabling outreach event during which many people learned about prairie dogs and their value to the environment.

Treasurer's report: R. Watt:

- Thanks were extended to everyone for attending the general meeting and all of those who had made donations during 2015. The donations provide capital for PDP operations and are especially important in lean years when contracts are nonexistent.
- With the loss of Weems, and Albertsons (Albertsons had been purchased by Safeway and the Community program which donated money to a number of charities including Prairie Dog Pals, had been ended.) donations have never been more important. Fortunately over the years with some exceptions, like the purchase of a replacement suburban, we've been able to sustain operations with donations. During 2015 we had a net deficit of \$950 which was offset by retained funds.
- Ray urged everyone to sign on to the Smith's Community plan, which, like Albertsons, provides funds to charities based on purchases. Participating in the program did not affect the gas miles and could be done by logging onto the Smiths website and designating PDP (65915) as your preferred charity. Instructions were included in the last newsletter and are on the website. There are other programs such as amazon smile which are on www.prairiedogpals.org/donate.
- A yard sale will be conducted on 11 June 2016. Members were urged to scour their households for treasures to turn into cash to support PDP operations. As our storage capabilities are limited we will accept donations the week before the sale. Keep tuned for updates.
- Contracts are anticipated for Chelwood Elementary School and Phil Chacon Park. The city contacted us about both in the fall but it was September and it was too late to capture the prairie dogs.

Unfunded site rescues: G. Singleton:

- Graziella extended appreciation to the stewards for all the work they do sustaining the colonies.
- For 2016 she will be focusing on removing prairie dogs from the following areas. She could use help with trapping so if anyone wants to volunteer they should contact her directly.
 - Tramway/Central at the hotel
 - The old Raley's site at Lomas and Tramway (NW corner)
 - The Lomas Police Station
 - Menaul/Tramway
- Becky mentioned that the colony at Eubank and I40 (west bound on ramp) had thrived and needed some serious thinning. This will require coordination with DOT as a permit will be required.
- Frances mentioned that Cloudview had ballooned as well from the 3-4 prairie dogs left a few years back to many many more.
- Graziella and Margaret would be happy to show anyone the intricacies of trapping. It is a Zen thing requiring patience and a lot of luck.
- Jane A. mentioned there were relocation sites in the East Mountains. Yvonne explained that we did not relocate there for several reasons including: it is a plague endemic area; the

residents already distrust us; and the PDs need 100s of acres so they don't become a nuisance on adjoining properties.

Outreach and education: Y. Boudreaux

- Annabeth has moved to Colorado and will be working on animal issues there. The position which involved coordinating between the various environmental and animal preservation groups is open. Annabeth has been helping us since 2007 and coordinated most of our tabling events. If any has the desire to help us with tabling, please let Y. Boudreaux know.

Private & singleton rescue: Margaret Dowling

- The work with GS Troop 10053 was a success. Over the course of the summer the girls got involved with all aspects of site stewardship and rescue. At the end of the season they produced a YouTube video of their project.
- There were a number of private rescues, one involving a ¼ mile run after which both the pursuer (Margaret) and the pursued (prairie dog) fell into each other's arms, glad the ordeal was over. Most of the other calls dealt with observing "holes" made by a wide range of creatures, from mouse to badger.

Media and art: S. Davidson

- The Facebook creations by Sharyn generated over 10000 hits/shares/likes over the course of the year, spanning the globe. This is an effective method of furthering awareness of prairie dogs.
- A portfolio of ideas was passed around to the attendees, all agreed that the images should be used to raise donations for prairie dogs. The exact method, i.e. cards, calendar, etc. was not determined.

PDP Operations E. Urbanski /R Watt:

- 210 prairie dogs were rescued and relocated during 2015.

4. Old and Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

Board Elections

- Current board members to continue in their positions, with the exception of A. Fieck and C., who have resigned.
- Carolyn McElroy has agreed to act as PDP's legal consultant
- Phil Carter from APNM has been offered an honorary position on the board to coordinate between preservation/conservation groups.
- Wendy B recommended that in addition to the legal advisor we have an accounting oriented person to advise the board. Both will provide more depth to the board.
- There is an open position for VP; the individual would take over for the president if needed. They would also be an eyes on the sites, self-starter who would pursue passive funding and coordination of the volunteers. Any interested should contact Yvonne.

- 2016/2018 Board
 - President: Yvonne Boudreaux
 - Treasurer: Ray Watt
 - Secretary: Ed Urbanski
 - Site Rescue, Unfunded: Graziella Singleton
 - Private and Singleton Rescue: Margaret Dowling
 - Media and Art: Sharyn Davidson
 - Legal Consultant: Carolyn McElroy

Stewardship

- The board approved a weekly stipend to augment the donated food that we receive from local groceries/farmer's market through the sweat equity of our site stewards. The money will be used to purchase food/feed, carrots, hay and grains for use at the city sites.
- Albertson's at Tramway and Academy will donate produce, however someone needs to set up the arrangements: Yvonne to follow up.
- Sprouts at Montgomery and Juan Tabo will also provide produce, however coordination and distance may be an issue.
- Priscilla hits the farmers markets 2-3 times per day and seems to do well. Yvonne said she would make some cookies for Eric to help with the distribution. Eric has done an excellent job with the produce.
- Al suggested giving "donors" gift cards from McDonalds for their effort. There was a caveat that this be done surreptitiously as it could breed jealousy.
- Be selective or educate the donors to be selective to avoid citrus and things like potatoes, meat, and Cruciferous vegetables. PS Despite what PDs may eat, Tater Tots, French Fries, and cheeseburgers are not suitable foods.
- Ann A noted that she could get vegetables from the coop but would need someone to pick them up. YB to follow up on this.

Outreach

- Jim Trever continues to provide education to a wide range of groups, with the Prairie Dogs in Peril Presentation; presentations are geared towards the age groups ranging from basic to complex.
- He could use some help; if interested contact Jim.
- Recently Jim provided a presentation to a home school group that was attended by the children, their parents and interested neighbors.
- Jim is the "plushie king" having sold more of the soft, adorable, plush prairie dogs that all outreach events combined! Woo Hoo Jim!

Rescue

- I-40 ramp sites at Tramway, Juan Tabo, Eubank. Remove source population at Central and Tramway. Permit and plan needed if pursued this year.
- Bosque Farms rescue (access is now blocked by fence, contact Karen Dremann for update). Ray will talk to Karen. Paul P offered to assist.
- All other unfunded rescues outside of Albuquerque to be refused.
- Unfunded Albuquerque sites (in order of priority)
 - Central & Tramway (Travelodge) source population for embankment (accessible without permit)
 - Lomas & Tramway (NE & NW) Raley's/Circle K
 - Lomas Police Substation (now city property?)

- Menaul & Tramway
- Potential Contracted Work
 - APS @ Chelwood
 - Kirtland AFB Housing

Captures/Releases

- **Spring Flushing/Trapping: March**
 - Ray will follow up on the contracts at Chelwood and Phil Chacon
 - Release all captures by 31 March.
 - Trapping may be difficult due to vegetation growth promoted by winter snows.
- **Summer Flushing/Trapping: 10 June – 30 September**
 - To be determined/see rescue above.
- **Other:**
 - Albuquerque work will depend primarily on volunteers:
 - Ray Watt will be the point person for funded work

Prairie Dog Conservation Project:

- Prairie Dog Pals has three programs, Education, Stewardship and Rescue...RESEARCH is not one of our programs. So we were a bit surprised when we...
- Request for Prairie Dog Pals to help publicize a crowd-funding effort to study sylvatic plague by Dr. Loren Cassin Sackett of the Center for Conservation and Evolutionary Genetics at the Smithsonian. Unfortunately, it is very similar to a project that Ana Davidson is doing. We are 100% committed to Ana; her efforts with Liz Green actually created PDP.
- Ana indicated that they would cover Loren under a blanket Grant that they are seeking.
- Jim T noted that he had also received a request from one of the crowd funding websites.
- There was a suggestion that PDP participate in crowd funding, after all Mystery Science Fiction Theater raised \$5.7 million. PDP has tried to raise funds for such things as microchips, tires, and insurance to offset direct costs, however attempts met with limited success.
- While it may seem strange that the Smithsonian was soliciting money via crowd funding, the needs of an individual researcher in a competitive academic environment might lead to such a decision. In any case the request was not posted on our website or Facebook page and Ana will collaborate with Loren.

2016 fund raising opportunities

- Garage Sale: Ray and Graziella will organize, target 11 June 2016.
 - Member should start setting items aside
 - Items of Interest Include: Tools, appliances, books, DVDs, pots/pans, and plants
 - Clothes do not sell very well
 - Celina suggested that we leave some donation information behind when we do public service rescues as the homeowners might feel inclined to donate something. You won't get anything if you don't ask.
- Members were encouraged to support PDP through shopping and using their Smiths card to donate funds.
- Members were solicited to make "in kind" donations including soap, hay, dog food, produce, towels, feed, etc.

6. Items of interest

- 2017 Board and General Meeting: 5 February 2017
- PDP will suspend the Dun & Bradstreet monitoring account as it costs \$1000/year. The D&B number will remain in effect.
- PDP will turn in the water meter annually for a savings of \$400.00.
- Letters were sent to the City, US Fish and Wildlife, NM Game and Fish, APS and DOT advising them that PDP is available to assist with prairie dog issues.
- The 2015 Tax return was submitted to the IRS and AG.
- Repairs will be needed for the tanker including tires and iron work to repair cracks.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM followed by a social hour.