



Yvonne Boudreaux  
President

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### **Minutes, General Meeting**

The annual meeting of Prairie Dog Pals was conducted on 5 February 2017 at the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation at 12700 Montgomery Blvd NE. The meeting was called to order at 105 PM.

Yvonne Boudreaux opened the meeting thanking everyone for attending; there are so many demands on your time and attention; Prairie Dog Pals appreciates that you are generous with your time and attention on behalf of our beleaguered species.

Yvonne extended thanks to all former board members for agreeing to continue in their current positions; this commitment represents decades of experience and dedication.

She announced new Board Members from last year's meeting: Carolyn McElroy as Legal Advisor; Phil Carter as Humane Alliance Coordination, Frances Gauthier as Editor (volunteer since 2006), and Jim Trever (volunteer since 2010) as Director Outreach, Presentations and Tabling. She commented on a recent presentation by Jim to a group of 60 home-schoolers for which he had a day's notice!

#### **YIPS:**

To Becky Davis for organizing a great bit of publicity w/ KOBTV for promoting Prairie Dog Day. Go to KOBTV <http://www.kob.com/albuquerque-news/group-wants-feb-2-to-become-prairie-dog-day-in-new-mexico/4389745/>

To Jim Trever (funding/layout) and Sharyn Davidson (art design) for collaborating on improved outreach materials.

To Frances Gauthier for completing a massive combined newsletter that elicited great responses.

To Carolyn McElroy for enhancing our Volunteer waiver.

To Suzy Girard for joining us last fall to tackle the feeding coordination in the future.

To Yoshi Killough and her partner for attempting a stealth rescue of prairie dogs at KAF

To one of our advocates from many years ago Susan, who spotted the first emerging prairie dog of 2017, after this was posted on FB several folks brought food so yips to them as well!

#### **NIPS:**

Prairie dogs continue to be poisoned at KAFB and many places elsewhere in the west.

Prairie dogs from plague endemic areas are prohibited from being relocated to historically plague-free habitat.

Bosque Farms village instituted a rodent ordinance that may affect our rescues there.

The Minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved as issued.

### **Reports of Officers**

#### **President's report:** Y. Boudreaux

PDP has implemented several cost-saving and fundraising measures that were discussed at the previous board meeting, during 2016 that will be discussed later. We lost our annual Weems event and the Albertson's Community Card support. We are enrolled in Smith's Card Community Support for PDP, but we need to enhance this passive funding support! We need to get the word out to all of our members that they should sign up!

We have cancelled the credit reporting service from Dunn & Bradstreet but have retained the DUNS number (free) that allows PDP to receive payment from government organizations. Today the board voted to divest from Wells Fargo (Predatory practices with client accounts, credit card service charges, DAPL); Ray has already cancelled the business credit service for which we were charged \$300 annually, all board members will sign letter, and copy the press.

We have City ABQ, and other contracts for this year that Eddie will discuss to follow.

We will continue to focus on expanding, improving our reach to advocates through electronic means and social media.

#### **Treasurer's report:** R. Watt

\$29,150.00	Beginning Balance
\$31,092.00	Ending Balance
\$1,058.00	Net

PDP will use a local credit union, to keep money in community rather than a national bank.

Our finances have remained constant at about \$30,000 general accounts; for relocation efforts we are saving money by turning in the water meter at the end of the season (\$75 per month) so we turned it in at the end of the year and renew in March, for a \$300 annual savings. In the past we kept the meter as water meters were hard to get but now there are more meters so we can pick it up when we need it.

For 2016 our expenditures exceeded our income by \$1000. This includes a \$3000 refund for the water meter that we will again pay out when it is renewed. We are in good financial shape thanks to our generous donors and the contracts we have gotten. We have a contract with the city and expect one from APS.

#### **PDP 2016 Operations:** R. Watt/E. Urbanski

Captures/Releases: 704

APS: Tomasita, Kennedy, Chelwood & Kirtland: 207 Prairie dogs

O'Reilly: 69

Bosque Farms: 120

Other Sites: 308

Ed noted, for the record, that PDP does not prairie dogs as directed by NMDH. Lest there be any question, PDP uses no pesticides in its operations.

**Singleton Rescue:**

Margaret reported on Sam the Sprinter of Walmart fame, who she chased for over an hour through the parking lots before they both gratefully completed their marathon (with the help of the manager of Petsmart) that netted the Owen-esque runner. She also recounted the singleton capture at Calvary Church that she scooped up with no running involved. Ed noted the difficulties encountered with the Church after they had purchased the Blue Cross Blue Shield facility. Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$2000.00 the prairie dogs were saved from being shot by the handy man or bulldozed. Margaret also worked with a number of cats, squirrels, and other mammals as well

**Director of Caregiver Services:** G. Singleton (Out of town):

**Feeding Coordination:** Yvonne introduced Suzy Girard. Suzy was with a prairie dog group in Santa Fe where she fed 7-8 years at a lot of sights, she is committed to feeding, and happy to be here.

**Special Projects & Artistic Director:** Sharyn Davidson

Sharyn has been doing website art, merchandise, and most recently collaborating with Jim for outreach materials.

Our Facebook and website pages are our two outlets for education and marketing; we continue to post custom holiday art and have gotten over 4000 hits on the Christmas and New Years posts. Jim has put videos on the Facebook page and shows a lot of the rescue and relocation. A calendar was developed (and passed around) and is available for purchase. There is always an issue with putting too many special dates and not leaving enough room to write in information.

A question was raised about greeting cards, and yes they are available on the web site. EPU will need to verify if Sharyn's cards appear there as well. A number of attendees suggesting looking into baseball hats with our logo as they are very popular.

**Legal Advisor:** C. McElroy

Carolyn is updating the volunteer waiver to better address insurance and liabilities and includes a line for guardian sign off in the case of minors.

**Humane Alliance Coordinator:** P. Carter

The coyote killing contest ban legislation is before the legislature, Senate Bill 468, introduced by Jeff Steinborn and Mark Moores from Albuquerque. In 2016 Animal Protection Voters has brought legislation to committee, large bipartisan support, sent to a hostile committee. House is now democrat, good environmental committee. High hopes; 2015 was first such legislation in a state chamber in the country; forward thinking and novel; California did it administratively, it is now before state senate, awaiting a hearing, Judiciary and Finance.

Why Judiciary and Finance? Any bill that imposes a law, ban or criminal charges has to go to Judiciary; Finance forced their hand as it may impose a financial burden (on agriculture). It has gone through three committees; the leadership favors this, so it should go through.

The session is 1/3 done so "we" need to lobby that the bill moves through and doesn't die in committee. The legislation focuses on coyotes because including other species would have

diluted the effort. Once the coyote bill passes it can be expanded to include other species (prairie dogs). Even if the bill gets through congress there is no guarantee that the Governor (pro rancher/farming) will sign it.

Phil will let us know how we can help and what's going on. Animal Lobby Day (22 Feb) is a good way to speak out for wildlife and conservation. If you can make it, come up to Santa Fe; Wednesday, 8 February is the Sierra Club's Water, Wildlands, Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse. Look to him as a resource for information (philcrater@gmail.com).

Becky asked about how do to target the republicans? Mark Moores from Albuquerque is republican and supports the bill. In 2015 it passed a wide bipartisan support in the senate. Maybe remind others that it is supported.

Selena noted that funds are being raised (\$7-8 hundred thousand) for spay and neuter programs. There would be no increase in tax to support this the money would come from companies. Support the program at the roundhouse on Monday, 830 AM. Constituents have power and when people show up it matters.

If you representative is on the committee contact them; there is a lot of demand for advocacy by all groups. Be sure to vote in the APS/CNM election on February 7. There is a rally being promoted by Karen Williams (bear attack) on the 8<sup>th</sup> to support legislation to ban mandatory euthanasia. There is a wolf rally on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Outreach, Presentations and Tabling:** J. Trever

Tabling and outreach is a good way to learn lore and hang out with folks. Jim noted that the 2016 outreach was covered in the newsletter. He has just completed back-to-back presentations for 60 people in the home school program in Rio Rancho. He always takes a spokesrodent with him as they are an asset to the presentation.

Nothing is scheduled as this point in time for outreach in 2017. We usually table at the Santa Ana Environmental fair and Refuge Day. Note: Need to scope out other venues including Earth Day, Xeriscaping (PDs are the original xeriscapers) Fair, Doggie Dash and Dawdle, Wine festival, Lavender festival, Wild Life West Days, Bear Watch, and/or collaborating with other groups such as APNM, NMWA, Lucky Paws, etc.

Jim and Sharyn collaborated on the tablecloth. Jim donated is donating \$600.00 to cover the cost of the PDP tablecloths. Jim asked if anyone was driving up for lobby day as he'd need a ride up. Ray indicated he was going. It was noted that the new Sheriff of Valencia County was animal friendly and that his wife ran a TNR program.

#### **Editor:** F. Gauthier

Frances has been a Jill of all trades, reviewing outgoing letters, editing the newsletter and running the staging facility and helping with capture and release.

Frances noted that it took a long time to get the newsletter out and that her goal for 2017 was to have a spring and end of year edition. She suggested that folks keep a diary and jot down highlights of activities as they occur, then it will be easier to compile stories. She also recommended that they use the highest resolution when taking photos.

Get good feedback on the recent newsletters, the content, layout, grammar and syntax were proper. If you have other interests let her know at 332 9150.

#### **4. Old and Unfinished Business** E. Urbanski

Letters were sent to our East Mountain clients advising them that transfer of prairie dogs from a plague endemic area to a historically plague free area will be restricted in the future, but that PDP was investigating new habitat.

Letters were sent to our Albuquerque clients including the Mayor, Parks and Recreation and APS.

Letters were also sent to BLM, USF&W, NM Game and Fish, NPS, NM State Land Commissioner, NFS, (Wildlife West letter to follow), soliciting habitat for the EM prairie dogs.

The Dunn and Bradstreet credit monitoring account was cancelled resulting in a \$1000 savings; we will maintain the D&B number that is free.

Two tires were purchased in 2016 for the suburban; two additional tires are needed in 2017: (approved.)

**Savings/Expenses:**

Dunn & Bradstreet: Suspended Account @ \$1000 Savings

Water Meter: Turned in seasonally @ \$400 Savings

Renewed web address for 5 years @ \$370.00

The board approved 2 new tires for the suburban @ \$200.00

**5. New Business**

**New Board Members:** Y. Boudreaux

Yvonne welcomed Frances Gauthier and Jim Trever to the board; Frances is an excellent editor and she will be contacting folks about articles; Jim has been involved in rescue and outreach for a number of years, he could use some help with tabling and outreach.

**Feeding Coordinator:** Y. Boudreaux

Suzy Gerard volunteered to perform this activity at season's end, 2016. Although she is new, she appears to be willing to get involved.

**Divestment from Wells Fargo:** R. Watt

Ray cancelled credit card processing option for a savings of \$400.00, YB would like to divest from Wells Fargo to a Credit Union (Predatory practices with client accounts, credit card service charges, DAPL)

Yvonne brought up the poor practices employed by Wells Fargo, specifically charges for PDP's credit card processing; being recently cited for a wide ranging scam involving fake charges to accounts; and finally being "big money" supporters of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Yvonne proposed that the account be switched to a local credit union (agreed) and that a letter be written to Wells Fargo (and copied to the Albuquerque Journal) explaining our decision (agreed) signed by all board members (agreed).

The group identified several possible credit unions including Nusenda (Used by Becky's neighborhood association), Sandia Area (keeps money in the community), Sandia Labs; Rio Grand Credit Union was not well thought of. PayPal was suggested (note: PDP does use PayPal). Credit unions are going to be in the cross hairs in years to come.

**Waivers:** C. McElroy

Everyone MUST sign the volunteer waiver to protect Prairie Dog Pals. People under the age of consent will need to get their parents to sign off.

**Stewardship:** E. Urbanski

Feeding Budget/stipend 2017: (\$40 weekly for dog food, \$18 monthly for grain, \$15 monthly for hay) March-September = \$193.00 x 7months = \$ 1400.00 was approved by the board.

Becky gave a brief overview of the food that she, Bobbie, Mike and Loretta distribute every week; Sharyn drops hay off for Priscilla, and it is a community effort.

Ann mentioned that she had been walking through Phil Chacon Park and noticed that many of the burrows were filled in. Need to follow up and check.

**Rescue:** E. Urbanski

Out of town work currently planned for 2017 includes Bosque Farms and possibly in Belen and Los Lunas.

Ray will pick up the water meter soon (February).

PDP purchased Microchips @ \$4.25/chip in 2016; The Sevilleta also had some year end money and purchased their own inventory of microchips so we should not have to purchase any in 2017.

PDP needs to coordinate with APS/COA on removals (Ray/early February)

There is now a 21-Day Quarantine period (14 days previously).

The refuge will no longer accept East Mountain or Santa Fe prairie dogs (plague endemic area). We need to find a staging facility and release location.

Albuquerque Sites

Lomas Police Station (Follow-up on any remaining PDs)	Lomas/Tramway NW (What about School of Excellence?)	Lomas/Tramway NE	<b>Menaul &amp; Tramway (Soon to be developed)</b>
Chelwood Elementary (Follow-up on any remaining PDs)	Wherry Follow Up? Kirtland Follow Up? Kennedy Follow Up? Tomasita Follow Up?	IS/Tramway NE (DOT work and landscaping)	Veteran's Admin???
I40 On/Off Ramps No Contract=No Work	<b>Phil Chacon</b>	<b>Veteran's Memorial</b>	<b>Bullhead</b>
Copper Pointe Follow up by EPU	<b>Wyoming &amp; Copper Lonesome George</b>		

**Captures and Releases:** proposed schedules

2/21-3/30 Spring Captures with 4/14 final release Who/Where/When

6/15-9/15 Summer Captures with 9/30 final release Who/Where/When

Work will depend on volunteers/paid workers:

Ray Watt	Paul Polechla	Ed Urbanski	Michael Trudelle
Graziella Singleton	Suzy Girard	Margaret Dowling	

Eyes on the ground and reporting: If volunteers will pick a site and report periodically on the

condition it can save us a week of quarantine. Quite simply an email documenting who, when (time and date) location, and status. We'll create a database and keep monitoring the sites through the year.

**2016 Tax Return; PRC; AG: Status:** E. Urbanski

The tax return is done and will be submitted this week; the other reports will follow.

**Newsletter/Website/Facebook:** E. Urbanski

The board agreed to print 2 Newsletters; we will continue hard copy distribution maybe sending electronically to people who are only peripherally involved.

Update website/Facebook weekly or more frequently (PDP Volunteers to feed info to EPU)

Phil mentioned other social media such as Duke City Fit, Meet Up.com, gofundme and others as possible resources. He was going to look into how to get PDP involved.

**Fundraising opportunities:** General Discussion

Garage Sale: R.Watt offered the possibility of a garage sale this September, any leftover items goes to AHUS that can resell. Ray was asked how soon he could accept donations. Will accept 2 weeks before.

Ann offered to make pussyhats for \$40 of which \$5 would go to PDP. She uses very good wool from ethical sources. She said to call her at 232 8756

Get Smith's card more widely used. EPU will repost charitable opportunities on FB and Website; next newsletter will have reminders. Carolyn suggested that we have an outreach table at Smiths to sign people up and given them a sticker (I voted) for their effort. Any other ideas would be appreciated.

Jim noted PDP received \$100 from Amazon Smile. There was a question about using Smile and Prime together, and we resolved that Prime members could access free shipping through the SMILE log on.

Jim advised the group that he had placed on outreach POD cast on the FB page for compassion fatigue. See [compassionfatiguepodcast.com](http://compassionfatiguepodcast.com).

Al asked if the city had expressed any interest in removing the PDs from the James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation. No, but we'll survey the site and see if any action is needed to think the colony.

**6. Items of interest:** General discussion

One of the members brought up a problem she had found on the FB page. She noted that the holiday prairie dogs bundled with other picture did not give you the opportunity to share the pictures, unless you know where to look for the share button. Apparently when pictures are included with posts, the share button is visible. However, the pictures also go into our "album". The album is now in a prominent place on the opening page and in the album the share buttons are not visible.

Celina suggested we have some small items like prairie dog oriented socks that people can buy for others. Jim had brought up the problem he had encountered with Café Press (PDP account suspended). EPU will look into reinstating the Café Press Account. This will allow us a greater

range of products without having a large inventory. EPU noted that while PDP got about 75% of the money from items they sold (25% purchase price) they only got about 20% from Café Press.

Frances related a story about covered photo albums a friend of hers sold for \$35. While the albums were worth the price her friend found she sold far more plastic barrettes with a bit of lace at \$2 and that's where she made money. PDP needs to find a venue where to sell, items you can make economically and sell for a few dollars. Profit margin is better. Members were asked to find out how much tables cost at craft fairs that they attend. It might not work out in smaller venues like churches as Frances recounted Tables were expensive because they had to pay fire marshal \$285 for a pre-sale inspection. The table fee at the Expo is \$20 but it is a tough place to sell with lots of arts and crafts and garage sale items competing.

The Rio Grande Arts and Crafts fair may or may not be the place to take the place of Weems. There is a lot of high end art to compete with.

There was a question about canvas totes; yes PDP has them in two styles, with handles and with a shoulder strap.

Several questions were raised about Kirtland. PDP has approached them directly and indirectly for years with no progress. PDP offered to do removals for free but is not welcome on base. While the new administration claims to be environmentally conscious apparently they are still poisoning prairie dogs. Volunteers are free to approach the base or our congressional representative on behalf of Prairie Dog Pals.

Yvonne recounted the effort by Yoshi and her partner to save some base PDs from poisoning. She wrote the company to get a week's reprieve on the poisoning. Despite their assurances that they would wait, apparently they went ahead and poisoned anyway.

Yvonne thanked the assembled for the help, attending, strategies, and proactive participation!

Meeting adjourned at 300.

**Meeting Schedule:** The next annual meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, February 4, 2018.