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### **General Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 28 January 2018  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Location:** James Joseph Dwyer Memorial Police Substation  
12700 Montgomery Blvd NE

#### **Attendees:**

Aimee A; Becky D; Debbie S; Ed U; Jim T; Paul P; Ray W; Carolyn M;  
Margaret D; Ralph & Celina L; Brenda M; Al & Lynn D

#### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

##### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. The following was read by E. Urbanski on behalf of Y. Boudreaux:

I am so sorry to miss this important meeting. My houseguests are dealing with some difficult issues, and I wanted to help them before they depart today...

I did just want to convey my appreciation to the many people who helped us succeed over the past year. In no particular order I want to say how much I appreciate ALL the board members who have agreed to stand for another term of office. Starting with our board members I want to thank all of them for unanimously voting last year to divest our nonprofit organization from Wells Fargo and move our assets to another bank. This task has been completed. The brunt of the work fell to Ray, our treasurer, and most of the inconvenience of dealing with a new structure falls to him.

While Phil is not here today we appreciate so much that his advocacy on our behalf legislative matters; his participation expands our reach across the state.

I want to thank CJ for her advocacy on legal matters; her participation expands our ability to respond to a number of issues across the state.

Margaret and Graziela with their many years of experience continue to provide strategic fieldwork in capturing those difficult cases with the last few stragglers.

I hope everyone gets a chance to look at the wonderful merchandise provided by our art director Sharyn. She creates all the website graphics and has developed merchandise from keychains, to windchimes, cards and calendars.

Frances will be returning to New Mexico in the coming weeks, yet managed to pull off another editorial feat with our newsletter long distance and continues to get broad accolades by phone, by email, and by letter for her sharp skills in this endeavor.

Jim continues to provide such a central outreach and has over time expanded his range far beyond the confines of the urban presentations we are able to offer Albuquerque residents in order to educate the public.

And of course close to home, our operations, our fieldwork, our daily essential administrative work would not exist without Eddie's tireless efforts.

Site monitors like Becky, Bobbi, Michael, and Loretta keep the remaining colony fragments safe until such time that we are able to capture and relocate them. These folks do not limit themselves to the rescue of prairie dogs only, but have generously stepped up for other species as well.

Our newest volunteer, Debbie, has made herself so valuable to our efforts and has joyfully stepped up to perform any task that turns up.

We are so grateful to our patrons, folks like Ralph and Celina, and so many other nameless supporters, who keep the coffers filled and keep us afloat.

Folks like Ann, who has become a wonderful voice in print media advocating for reason, compassion, community and general care throughout our local environment and culture, reinforcing the concept that a rising tide lifts all boats.

If I have overlooked the contribution of anyone here today, I apologize. We are so fortunate that so many talents, skills and efforts come from such diverse and varied folks. We are still in need of a dedicated feeding coordinator, a donated goods salesperson, and a data records person, we are coping in the meantime.

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 meeting**

The minutes were approved as issued.

## **3. Old and Unfinished Business**

**Client Letters:** Letters were sent to the following clients on the first of the year: COA/Mayor & Parks & Recreation, APS, DOT, NM G&F; and, US Fish & Wildlife

**Electronic Notification:** As discussed in the 2017 meeting the majority of correspondence and notification is now done electronically.

**Updated Email database:** As part of the electronic notification effort, all PDP databases were combined, people were contacted, and bad addresses and inactive individuals removed.

**Amazon Smile:** Amazon Smile can be easily linked with Amazon Prime. It was noted that periodically one might need to remind the Prime account that Smile was to be used.

**Café Press:** Café press has deleted our account and artwork. An unsuccessful attempt was made to reinstate the account; PDP will try to use Vista Print for specialty T Shirt orders in the future.

**Wells Fargo:** Divestment from Wells Fargo is now complete and funds are with a local credit union.

#### **4. New Business**

**Election of Board Members:** The board was reelected for another 2-year term.

**Stewardship:** At the moment there is no single point of contact for feeding coordination. In view of the independent nature of the stewards, it was decided to leave the status quo in effect. Feeding budget/stipend for 2018 was approved.

**Outreach:** There is a presentation on 16 Feb at Las Vegas and assistance with tabling is needed. Contact Jim T if you can help.

Likely venues for 2018 include Unitarian Church in Rio Rancho, Whitfield Wildlife Center, Sevilleta, Bosque Del Apache, Valle de Oro, and Valle Calderas

Got rained out at the Valles Caldera during the Elk Festival

**Newsletter:** One-two newsletters will be published during 2018. Members were encouraged to write up activities and forward them to Frances for inclusion.

#### **Fundraising opportunities:**

- Garage Sale: There will be 1-2 garage sales this year
  - Early Garage Sale by Debbie Stevenson, Mid March
  - Late Garage Sale (TBD by Ray Watt)
- Donation button on Facebook: This was clarified; whenever anyone makes a post they can add a donation button but it needs to be directed to Prairie Dog Pals.

- Becky suggested that we partner with some larger charities to share donations. The suggestion was made in light of the change in tax laws and possibility that people would be less inclined to donate to charity as it might not be advantageous to itemize deductions.
- Paul suggested that PDP contact the Buffalo Exchange to see if we could get on their “nickel” program. Various charities get a nickel with each purchase as designated by the purchaser.
- Paul advised of a grant opportunity to secure funds (up to \$8000.00) that could be used to landscape Indian School. Paul will provide the link.
- Dining/drinking fundraisers were discussed. While opportunities exist they need support of the general membership. When previously tried attendance dropped off after 3 months.

**2017 Tax Return; PRC; AG:** The tax return is complete but needs to be coordinated with R. Watt; once the return is complete and submitted it will be sent to the AG/PRC.

**Private & Singleton Rescue:** (M. Dowling): The year started off with the capture of a guinea pig, a skunk, a cat, and finally a prairie dog (last one caught). The PD was fostered by Margaret as it was so tame.

Jim discussed the PDs he adopted, Toothless had ram’s horn teeth; malocclusion or a vitamin imbalance may cause the teeth to grow into the mouth. They need to be routinely clipped (diagonals/craft cutter/dremel) or removed. Long term if not corrected the animal will starve. Macy had ingested a plastic cap from a syringe which blocked digestion. After some emergency visits to the vet the blockage passed and the prairie dog regained vitality.

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

Captures/Releases: 765

Contracts:

- The APS contract was completed.
- The DOT Contract for Indian School was completed, however 3 follow up visits are required. There is an open contract with the COA.
- COA Contract: RW will continue to coordinate.

**Intergroup Coordination:** P. Carter (Not present): Peripheral influence, by getting the name of PDP advertised through networking with associates.

**Media and Art:** S. Davidson (Not present): Created calendars and key fobs for sale; her artwork on the facebook page continues to generate much interest. The New Year’s picture gathered over 6500 hits.

**Editor:** F. Gauthier (Not present) One newsletter was issued during 2017; the newsletter again received an number of compliments regarding the quality of the articles and a number of donations.

**Legal:** C. McElroy: A brief summary of the Taos land deal was discussed. Carolyn was thanked for keeping PDP out of a potential mess.  
**Volunteers needed to:** Feed and/or trap at various sites

## **5. Items of interest**

Paul will be teaching a course in the natural history of NM at CNM this fall. He proposed collaboration to introduce his students to rescuing prairie dogs.

Paul will be again participating in the ferret census this year and invited volunteers from PDP to come and help. There are two periods when these counts are conducted, March/April and October. After a brief training sessions volunteers go out for night spotting and live capture. There is also an opportunity to see badgers, owls and other nocturnal species. This takes place in the Aubrey valley in Arizona (8 hours from Albuquerque). Contact Paul at if you are interested ([prairiedogpals@prairiedogpals.org](mailto:prairiedogpals@prairiedogpals.org)).

Brenda spoke of the draft resolution that Gibson and Baredo have prepared for the city to consider, we are requesting that the city council support resolution to condemn coyote killing in the city and eventually ban it in the state. Interested individuals were encouraged to attend and speak out. The next meeting is financial committee on 12 Feb at 5PM on 9<sup>th</sup> floor. Assuming it passes, goes to 1<sup>st</sup> vote 21 feb at council chambers. City hall. The general mood is good about it passing, however, people must attend meetings, contact councilors and speak out.

Paul raised some questions about leg hold traps and bounties. The memorial only deals with the contests. We can't outlaw the thought process but as a city we can condemn the contests. Leg hold, resolution, passed, county commission, resolution to prohibit leg hold traps. On state land, never got a written document. Need to get something in writing for the state.

The previous land commissioner promised to ban trapping on state land but did not. The current land commissioner, Aubrey Dunne will not support a ban. There will be an election for land commissioner this year, get out and vote!

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. The next annual meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, February 3, 2019.