



Yvonne Boudreaux
President

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General Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 February 2021
Location: Zoom Meeting

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM. Yvonne thanked the attendees for showing their support of the prairie dogs by being “here” virtually and for their support throughout the year.

Although Sharyn D stepped down from her board position of Media and Art; she still actively supports PDP by producing cards, calendars and enchanting pictures for the Facebook page.

Phil Carter resigned from his position of Intergroup Coordination.

Yvonne gave thanks to our donors who continued to sustain our efforts. She thanked the Volunteers and stewards that contributed to PDP’s achievements throughout the year. She identified a few of the new volunteers, Amy, Andy and Lisa noting that they had averted a situation during which one of the stewards was incapacitated. She thanked the guardians whose vigilance and eyes on the ground averted many situations that would have proved detrimental to the prairie dogs.

Yvonne noted that two greats were lost during 2020: Nancy M who was a legend in environmental, wildlife and nature issues in New Mexico and Dick W who was one of the oldest and longest PDP volunteers. Dick was helping with rescue and stewardship well into his eighties.

Yvonne praised the Prairie Dog Coalition and in particular the new CEO, Jenni Bryant who just released 291 prairie dogs in Colorado on 1 February. PDP is a founding member of the coalition and has long supported and been supported by them.

There were more expenses in 2020 than anticipated due to additional food provided to the caregivers but we won’t compromise in 2021 on care given to

prairie dogs. PDP will continue to thin at I40 Eubank and Juan Tabo EB exits to keep PDs off the roads.

Yvonne also extended appreciation to Ray and Tania who were hosting this Zoom meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 meeting

The minutes of the 2020 meeting were approved as issued.

3. Old + New Business

Treasurer: (Ray W):

Ray noted concerns about spending during 2020 however with the donations and contract payments PDP actually ended the year in good shape.

\$24649.00	Total Income
\$23099.00	Total Expenses

Ray mentioned that he had gotten a lot of excess produce from Whole Foods and Costco in 2020 and would follow up and try to expand on what we are getting during 2021. The Whole Foods connection is especially good as they provide a lot of greens. There was discussion about using grass clippings from the Hoffmantown Church. They typically cut the grass on Thursdays and put out the bags; it needs to be picked up quickly as it will spoil. There was some concern about the use of pesticides or fertilizer.

Ray was optimistic about 2021 as we had cleared a few sites and stewardship costs should be somewhat less. PDP was also expecting a contract for approximately \$5000 to remove prairie dogs from the Los Colinas site which will be developed this year. Additionally, he had submitted a proposal to remove prairie dogs along NM 314 (near the courthouse) in Los Lunas. The latter will be a rush project as the contractor wants to begin work ASAP but the prairie dogs are still hibernating

Paul P raised a question about the location of the Los Lunas site. Ray responded that there were about 25 burrow, not all active and they were located along NM 314 near the courthouse. The Los Lunas Rail Runner station is nearby. Paul offered to lend a hand on weekends.

The PDP tax return was submitted to the IRS on 1/17/21, many thanks to Carolyn who researched the reporting requirements and concluded PDP could file by e-postcard; our report with COROS (AG) was submitted on 2/2/21; the report to the PRC will be submitted when due, in May.

Fundraising:

- Garage Sale: No garage sales in 2020 due to Covid
 - PDP may host one in the Fall; we are currently taking donations! If you have any call Debbie on: 505 205

2966. If it is at all possible please price your donations.

- Eleven calendars and nine boxes of Christmas cards were sold. Sharyn D donated the cost of printing.
- Birthday fund sourcing: Jim raised over \$800 through a series of online fundraisers
- Online Sales: Not implemented due to high overhead. It was suggested that we try Facebook and Craig's list. EU reported having sold some small kennels on FB.

Site stewardship: (E. Urbanski)

Need volunteers to help feeding: Contact Bobbie C, Ray W or Debbie S 505 296 1937, prairiedogpals@prairiedogpals.org to volunteer and the message will be passed on, include name and phone number.

The stewardship stipend was approved by the board.

Outreach and Education: (Jim T)

The first, last and only tabling event was conducted on March 7th in Rio Rancho. Jim converted his office into a recording studio and was able to perform two lectures on the 21st of November for the festival of the cranes. There were 90 and 45, attendees respectively. The Refuge expressed gratitude for the excellent presentations.

Jim will be investigating the possibility of providing presentations to a broader audience. Graziella noted that she had seen an appeal soliciting proposal for informational presentation on TV.

Becky D will help Jim in 2021 but volunteers are still needed for Tabling & Event Sponsorship.

Intergroup Coordination: (Phil C resigned in October).

2021 Legislative Session: Carolyn M noted that there will be a lot of bills presented as this is a 60-day session. Bills covered the spectrum from marijuana and home alcohol deliveries to secession with many important issues in between. Two that stuck out and that should be supported if folks are so inclined are Roxy's law which would eliminate trapping on state lands and a bill being promoted by Mimi Stewart which limit or ban the use of pesticides that harm pollinators.

Roxy's law has not gone through committee and is not scheduled at the present time; the pesticide bill will be reviewed by the Conservation Committee on 9 February.

Media and Art: (Ed U)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/prairiedogpals Sharon continues to develop artwork for the FB page that generates a lot of interest. The page is kept up to date with information about prairie dogs and related species.

Website: www.prairiedogpals.org is up to date and there is a wealth of information on it, however, we get few visits. Still, this is our "OFFICIAL" site and will be maintained.

Editor: (Frances G)

The report was given by Ed U as Frances was suffering from season allergies. Newsletter is underway, needs stories and ideas. Send them to: 296 1937 or prairiedogpals@prairiedogpals.org and the message will be passed on, include name and phone number.

Legal: (Carolyn M)

Carolyn reviewed and revised the PDP protocol and updated it to accommodate Covid and state and federal guidelines. The goal being to protect the volunteers and the prairie dogs. Covid can be transmitted to certain animals and we want to make sure we don't transmit the disease.

Changes include using masks and gloves; social distancing; travel requirements; and cleaning tanks, kennels, and traps between use.

Objectives are summarized as follows:

- If you are sick or feel sick stay at home and do not participate.
- Maintain social distancing
- Use gloves
- Wear a mask
- Wash hands

Private & Singleton Rescue: (Margaret D)

Margaret reported one squirrel and a number of mice for the year.

Singleton rescue is difficult and time consuming. At best 80% of the effort is expended catching the remaining 20% of the prairie dogs, but with singleton rescue 100% of the effort is expended trying to coax an unwilling critter into the trap.

PDP Operations: (Ray W and Ed U)

SNWR: Ray had discussed rates at the Refuge with Nancy, the biologist. There are a number of issues including drought, predation and dispersal. Additionally, climate change may be adversely affecting the relocated prairie dogs. PDP will consider other sites, perhaps further north. Discussion will continue on this subject.

PDP remains committed to protecting the urban prairie dogs by relocating those threatened with loss of habitat and thinning to avoid road kills. Yvonne reminded the group that no prairie dog dies of old age.

Paul P asked if the prairie dogs were being monitored; due to budget limitations in the recent years, annual monitoring no longer occurs. There was some discussion about using drones to monitor; a number of board members are looking into this subject.

A total of 749 prairie dogs were relocated from sites in and around Albuquerque to the SNWR. Captures include: DOT (180), Belen (70), Phil Chacon (56), Antique Connection (125), Bosque Farms (71), and Los Colinas (252). 750 were captured and 749 released as there was one tank death.

504 Paisano: Ray Watt responded to a posted sign for comment on site development and linked up with the builder and City. The City and Developer want work with PDP to relocate the PDs. Anticipating the start of construction in 2020, a total of 252 prairie dogs were relocated, this is our top priority for 2021.

Sandia Vista Park: Got a call late in the season from the city about removing prairie dogs. Ray checked the site and thought there were over 200 PDs there. Will need to be done in the spring.

Indian School and Tramway: Construction started on the landscaping on the NE side of Tramway and Indian School (CVS). Based on 2020 monitoring there were no PDs on the site. PDP will continue to monitor the south lot but has no plans for removals in the spring.

We plan to concentrate flushing on contract work at Los Colinas and the Antique Connection. We have no plans for flushing along Tramway this spring.

I 40: Time permitting we will flush at EB I40 at Eubank and Juan Tabo off ramps this spring.

2021 Spring Trapping
Los Colinas (Paisano)
Antique Connection (Central)
Hotel (NW Tramway/Central)
Cloudview (NW Tramway/Cloudview)
Raleys (NW Tramway/Lomas)

At Large: (Graziella S)

Graziella noted that she would begin trapping once the prairie dogs had become active.

4. Items of interest

Kennels: New Kennels (10 approximately) are needed to replace worn out kennels. YB, CE, and RW agreed to see what could be done about getting replacements. (Go Fund Me, Kick Starter, Craig's List, Free Cycle and Trash Nothing will be reviewed as possible sources. The Petmate kennels are \$65 each new.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM; Yvonne B thanked all the attendees for their continued support.

Meeting Schedule: The next annual meeting will be scheduled for 1:00 PM on Sunday, January 30, 2022