



Yvonne Boudreaux
President

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General Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order

Yvonne B. called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:05 AM on 3 February 2024. She thanked all the board members and volunteers for their continued support despite absences, illnesses, and uncertainties.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 meeting

There were no objections, and the minutes were approved as issued.

3. Old + New Business (2023 accomplishments/2024 plans)

President: (Yvonne B):

Yvonne was happy to report that all the board members will fill their positions again for the next two years.

She was sad to report that Kay Stitleman had passed away on 9/21/2023. Kay was one of the earliest members of PDP. The announcement of her passing came after the newsletter was published so there was no opportunity to list her contributions.

PDP lost some volunteers this past year (Dianne M, Wendy P, Lisa J Susan R and Dianne B) but gained two reliable "pals". Barry H has taken on Cloudview and Susan B has joined and participated in almost every activity, including colony support, trapping, and relocation

She noted that calls for PD relocation have already started coming in!

Treasurer: (Ray W):

Ray noted that expenditures had exceeded income and that there was a small deficit, mostly due to unplanned work in Bosque Farms and increased food costs.

26336	Total Income
29863	Total Expenses
-3527	Net

He noted that despite the deficit PDP was in healthy financial standing. Although there would likely be fewer contracts in the future, expenses would be reduced as we continue to clear sites.

Ray had moved some funds to higher interest paying CDs.

We may get a contract in Bosque Farms to remove prairie dogs from the Bris property and adjacent alfalfa field (private). There may be some work in Los Lunas. PDP won't be working at Eagle Park in Belen as the city manager will take other steps to address the prairie dogs in the baseball fields. There is the possibility of some private work in Peralta and Bosque Farms.

Fundraising:

Smiths: PDP has 13 families participating and get about \$35/quarter; if you shop there consider signing up, information is on the website. Note: It will not affect gas points!

Second design of T-shirts was created and donated by Jim T. Available for \$15 each, assorted sizes, black, white, and green.

Garage Sale: 2023 Spring/Fall Garage sales were hosted by Frances G and Debbie S. The gross was \$2300+. The board agreed that future garage sales were warranted. Ray noted that we would likely have spring and summer garage sales, venue to be determined.

- Plants priced from \$1-\$5 sell well at the garage sales. Yvonne had already started several plants in preparation for the next sale. If anyone wants to contribute small plants, they are encouraged to do so.
- Ray will coordinate sales for 2024 with all concerned.
- We'll start accepting donations for the next sale approximately 2 weeks before the sale.
- Currently we have an inventory of left-over items from the September sale and several new items from the estate of Kirk S., donated by Suzette and Mark.
- Yvonne noted that several items from the last sale had been donated to Animal Humane.

Business Items

- Tax Return: Status: Filed 1/18/24.
- AG/PRC: Status: Filed 2/2/24.
- 2023/2024 COA Business License: Renewed in November.
- 2023/2024 Los Lunas Business License: Renewed in November.
- Fire Hydrant Permit: Renewed in December
- SSL/Website: Renewed in November for 5 years.
- Sevilleta permit: Submitted 1/9/24.

Site stewardship: (Ed U)

Need volunteers to help with site stewardship.

PDP purchases supplies from several local and national stores. We also get “free” produce from some businesses. Ray noted that one of our donors was moving location and the “arrangement” would need to be confirmed for 2024. Becky noted that the 25# bags of carrots she was getting cost \$26.50 and that she had a stack of invoices from 2023 (provide to Ray W); the 50# bags went from \$25 to \$40 as the year progressed. 6# bags of Carrots went from \$3.50 to \$5.49.

Paul P noted that produce from local growers was limited and most of it is already committed to local consumers. He noted that the crop was compromised by challenging weather but that the carrots would supply the PDs with needed moisture. Ray W and Frances G noted that there were water bowls at Sandia Vista, Olive Garden (vandalized), Cloudview, and other sites.

The stewardship budget/stipend for 2024 of \$7000.00 was approved.

Rosa Lee G might be able to help us with volunteer stewards from her website. Yvonne B will follow up.

Outreach and Education: (James T)

Volunteers for Tabling & Events are needed.

Jim noted an abundance of outreach events were requested/conducted during 2023. He presented over 20 lectures in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, at the Bosque del Apache, Whitfield and Sevilleta. His busiest day was at Longfellow Elementary (mascot, Black Tailed Prairie Dog) where he made 5 consecutive presentations. He noted that this was the first time the students got to meet Sunny and Rusty who were BTPDs like their mascot.

Jim anticipated making an increasing number of presentations during 2024.

Editor: (Frances G)

One newsletter was produced during 2023. This will become the norm due to the cost and effort needed to produce a second newsletter. She was open to suggestions for articles for the next newsletter. She noted that the pictures were a bit dark and hoped to rectify that in the future. She hoped everyone had received their newsletter.

Frances also noted that the old newsletters made good outreach tools and had a supply if anyone wanted copies.

Susan B complimented her on the content and quality of the newsletter. It covered all the details without being too long. Sharon H was also very complimentary, but it was unclear as to how she acquired a copy of the newsletter. Yvonne will investigate and provide an address should she wish to be added to the mailing list.

Celina noted that Sharon H is with the Unitarian Animal Advocate group and likely got the newsletter through them. Yvonne noted that PDP had tabled at the church in previous years and would follow up to renew contacts.

Frances noted that the picture of the injured prairie dog would convey the idea that PDP does acquire Veterinary Services for injured prairie dogs. She also urged people using the intake log to provide details which will help her in developing future articles.

Legal: (Carolyn M)

2024 had been a quiet year and that there were no legal concerns. She would be tabling with others at the legislature. While she thought that legislation protecting prairie dogs should be encouraged it would be unlikely (this year) during the current “short” budget session.

She will be visiting Glorietta soon to investigate a potential relocation site. Paul P asked if this was east or west of the divide but the location in relation to the divide was unclear. Yvonne noted that there were at least two animal friendly groups in the area, Heart and Soul and J. Stevenson.

Celina noted that recent attempts to contact Jason had not been successful. Yvonne noted that he had recently moved (to Glorietta) and was busy with bats but did have an active FB page

Private & Singleton Rescue: (Margaret D)

Margaret recounted a squirrel rescue in her neighborhood. She noted that the home had a shed with a PD living under it, but that the PD was cared for by the resident. She said a skunk has recently appeared.

Frances said there might be some singleton rescues adjacent to the lot being developed in Bosque Farms. Margaret noted that she was open to singleton PD rescues if needed however it would depend on several issues. Ray noted that he and Ed could follow up on these.

At Large: (Graziella S) Absent

PDP Operations: (Ray W and Ed U)

Ray noted that PDP has recently completed several repairs on the suburban in the amount of \$3000. Additional work is needed on the Tanker brakes.

He noted that priorities for the Spring include Sandia Vista Park, follow up at Los Colinas, follow up at Phil Chacon Park, Freeway Sites and Lomas and Tramway. Other work in Bosque Farms, Peralta, Los Lunas and Belen and at private sites would be addressed if time and resources were available. Frances mentioned the Cloudview had repopulated and could use thinning.

Paul P. noted seeing several PDs over the years along NM 3414 between Belen and Los Lunas (courthouse, Gabaldon road, I 25) and that the city and/or DOT continued to blade the areas. The PDs seemed to be coexisting with the cattle in the fields and improved the growth of native and planted grasses as the burrows absorbed moisture. He suggested that some affirmative action with the powers that be might save the PDs from further disturbance and enlighten the officials as to the importance of PDs to the environment. He also suggested that consideration be given to

performing outreach at some of the schools to raise the awareness of the younger generation. He offered to help Jim with the presentations and outreach.

Ray observed that DOT and/or COA had taken to blading the ROW along the freeway and Tramway and had essentially denuded the areas. Yvonne noted previous good relations with DOT but that personnel had moved on.

PDP had an emergency rescue off NM 47 at the lot behind McDonalds in Bosque Farms. The contractor had already grubbed the site and thanks to the intervention of Lee K and Karen D the contractor allowed us to remove the prairie dogs with the promise of a future donation. 158 Prairie dogs and 1 bull snake were removed

By season's end, we had relocated 679 prairie dogs, six squirrels, a skunk, and the bull snake. Perhaps the most exciting news in 2023 was the release of over 90 of these prairie dogs at a private landholding in southern New Mexico!

4. Items of interest

Margaret presented a Lego prairie dog that might be used for events. She had obtained a few from Wall Drug and could donate them. Carolyn subsequently sourced a supplier and consideration will be given to obtaining some for future events. Post Meeting Note: PDP will acquire 20 of these for use at outreach events.

Susan B complimented the calendar and suggested we include lunar phases. This will be investigated.

Frances mentioned that several people had asked if PDP could remove squirrels. While squirrel removal was done as a "courtesy" it was not part of our mission, vision, value, and goals. PDP will remove all "wildlife" from sites slated for development, but general limits relocations to prairie dogs. Margaret said she might be able to help depending on circumstances. Debbie will be contacted to see if she is interested in becoming an independent contractor for squirrel removal.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Meeting Schedule: The next annual meeting will be scheduled for 11:00 AM on Sunday, February 2, 2025 (Prairie Dog Day).