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**General Meeting Minutes**

PDP General Meeting

Lomas Tramway Library

908 Eastridge Dr. NE, Albuquerque.
February 1, 2025

**Sign In:** Sign in will be from 10:50 to 11:10 AM

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**1. Call to order:**  The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 meeting:** The minutes are approved as issued.

**3. Old + New Business (2024 accomplishments/2025 plans)**

**President:** (Y. Boudreaux):

Introductions of the board and attendees were made. Yvonne noted that despite the years of experience shared by those in attendance volunteers were needed for several activities including clerical, media, outreach, stewardship and rescue. She encouraged people to adopt a site. One of our best resources is the “eyes on the ground” provided by the stewards who could alert the board if anything was being done to harm the prairie dogs.

Yvone provided a brief overview of the website which had been hacked last 2024. She noted that Desert Dog Technology was providing the resources to migrate and recreate the website and should be complete soon. Fortunately, a number of year end donations should cover the rebuild charges.

She explained that 2025 would be the “Season of Steven” as a large (largest ever for PDP) had been given from his estate thanks to a recommendation from Dianne B (former Mid-West Prairie Dog Shelter). Jim added that her website https://www.weloveprairiedogs.com/ provided very pertinent information about prairie dogs.

Yvonne has been in contact with Thunderbird Harley Davidson to create a fundraising opportunity using HD collectibles to be donated by Dianne B. as well.

She elaborated on recent contact with the City of Santa Fe and likelihood that PDP would be providing some training for them. Further, that training of a couple had occurred during 2024, and it was hoped that they could spearhead rescue efforts in Santa Fe. Discussion about PNE followed touching on health issues of some of those involved.

There was discussion about Ana Davidson’s early involvement with prairie dogs and Prairie Dog Pals and how she and Liz Green worked together to take care of PD issues in the late 1990s. Ana went on the get her PHD in Plains biology and was currently working with Ranchers in Colorado and Utah to improve Western grasslands.

**Treasurer:** (R. Watt):

2024 Expenditures: $24,000.00, consisting of $5,000 for vehicle repair and maintenance and $19,000 for sustenance. PDP had received $1600 in interest due to the high CD rates and was in good shape financially. There was one small contract is 2024 and PDP had recently received an inquiry from APS to remove PDs from a school near Phil Chacon Park.

**Fundraising:**

Garage Sales: The two garage sales in 2024 netted $1800. There will likely be 2 garage sales in 2025, one in the spring (March/April/May timeframe) and one in the fall. The spring sale will likely be held at 5219 Vista Bonita NE.

**Site stewardship:** (E. Urbanski)

Need volunteers to help feeding

 Feeding Stipend for 2025 Approved

**Outreach and Education:** (J. Trever)

Need volunteers for Tabling & Event Sponsorship. If Jim doesn’t have help he will be unable to conduct the outreach events.

Jim noted it was a busy year and that he had conducted over 35 events. At one of the schools, he did 5 back-to-back presentations. At another, Longfellow Elementary, he introduced the students to the school’s mascot, a black tailed prairie dog.

Paul P volunteered to help at any event held at the Valles Caldera. Susan also indicated that she would be willing to assist once she had recovered from an upcoming procedure.

**Editor:** (F. Gauthier)

The newsletter is running late. Needs a few more Yips and Nips. Will keep them apolitical. Frances might mention climate change deniers.

Paul P offered to write a few articles about his recent visits to wilderness areas Hubble Trading Post and Black Rock Canyon for which Frances thanked him. He noted that they had recently relocated BTPDs from the Trading Post to the Petrified Forest. Currently he was working at SW Poly Tech and was open to the possibility of doing an outreach event at some point in time.

**Legal:** (C. McElroy)

The legislature is currently in session but there were not many animal issue bills in process. One of note was restructuring of NM Game and Fish to become more preservation focused as well as raising license fees.

There are 30 sites in SF and CJ is working with several individuals and groups there to become better organized. The PD focused groups are facing many of the same issues that are occurring in Albuquerque and a collaborative action might be best for the prairie dogs.

CJ will be visiting four sites soon that might be leased including one with Verizon. The sizes of these sites are 40, 40, 20 and 10 acres. Paul P offered to assist from the biological standpoint. There is a question of archeological surveys/clearance for any leased area. When asked about the cost, CJ said the Verizon site was $1500/year.

CJ noted that the City of SF had remediated Frenchy’s Field and was now looking at restoring the PD population.

CJ had also visited sites in Dixon, Taos, and Glorietta but the land was very rocky.

**Private & Singleton Rescue:** (M. Dowling)

Margaret was sporting a “Squirrel Whisperer” t shirt. She noted that there were few calls during 2024. She did comment on people’s tendency to exaggerate recalling one visit to a homeowner that had a giant burrow that turned out to be a mouse sized hole.

**At Large:** (G Singleton)

 Nothing to report.

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

Ray had recently spoken with David Langford and will follow up with Valles Caldera. He expressed concerns about the PDs we relocated as being unable to adapt to being in the wild. Efforts will continue to remove the prairie dogs from Sandia Vista Park. There was some discussion about the park location.

There was some discussion about Valle Del Oro, one of the first urban wildlife refuges. They want to have prairie dogs but are busy remediating the farm. The correct grasses are needed as is irrigation.

The area around El Malpais has prairie dogs and may be a good relocation target on either state or federal land. Several Indian Pueblos included Sandia and Santa Ana were mentioned. Ray noted that PDP should focus on finding suitable relocation land for the prairie dogs.

There was one possible contract for 2025. Ed U noted that relocation habitat must be identified and available before any spring captures took place. Yvonne noted that “someone” needed to take the phone calls if PDP was not going to relocate this spring.

**4. Items of interest**

Nancy O suggested that PDP consider remediating some of the sites. The board reviewed this discussion and decided PDP could not accomplish this due to site ownership, liability, and resources.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

The next annual meeting will be scheduled for 11:00 AM on Sunday, January 31, 2026.