



Minutes

Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Committee Meeting

DATE- 19th of October 2022 - 3:00 pm – 4.00 pm
Agri-Nature Center – 4920 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.

Minutes

Attendees: Sue Brawley, Sarah Cobb, Bill Shen, Henry Shoner, Dan Gerry, Ann Simon, John Edward, Joshua O'Halloran, Sabrina Apodaca.

1. Overview of Notes– The meeting was called to order by Joshua O'Halloran at 3:04 pm. Sabrina Apodaca read previous meeting minutes.
2. AgriFutures Report – Dan Gerry
 - a. We had our Kick-Off meeting on October 3rd and had three teams and 21 people. The Research team is led by Joshua O'Halloran, the Education team is led by John Garlisch, and the Economic Development and Agritourism team is led by Chris Campbell. All teams have some regenerative agriculture qualities to them. We will meet once a month over zoom on the first Monday of the month at 5:30. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7th.
3. Agri Nature Center Report – Joshua O'Halloran
 - a. We harvested about 1000 pounds of grapes from the vineyard at the Ag Center. The Master Gardeners have turned that into about 75 gallons of wine.
 - b. This season we've harvested 832 pounds of vegetables from the community garden and have taken about 200 pounds to the Rio Grande Food Project.
 - c. The sheep have been moved to the South Valley temporarily to help the pasture grow back and so the sheep can be sheared.
 - d. On September 22nd we held a workshop on integrating livestock into your backyard. This workshop was taught by former Village Animal Control Officer, Dominic Tomba.
 - e. On September 24th we held the Tour de Los Ranchos Bike Tour which was a result of the AgriFutures program. The tour brought in \$700.
 - f. The YCC program in partnership with the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy has been on the farm helping us with fieldwork.
 - g. We got another watering on the Rio Grande fields on September 30th. If the rain continues we may get more water.
 - h. On October 6th we held a Home Mushroom Growing workshop with Earl McBride.
 - i. We are planning the 2023 Winter/Spring Workshop series.

- j. We held our first Agrifutures convening on October 3rd at the Agri-Nature Center. This was the kick-off event for year 4 for Agrifutures.
- k. We hosted the Sierra Club for a farm tour on September 21st. They were interested in the conservation work we are doing at the Agri-Nature Center.
- l. On the 15th we supported the Maize Maze with apple cider pressing, archery, wool spinning, wheat and corn winnowing, pumpkin painting, and beekeeping demos.
 - i. Sue asked about environmental safety steps in place for the apple cider pressing. We will look into these.
 - ii. John suggested adding liability insurance for food producers.

4. Development Plan for the Agri-Nature Center

- a. An outdoor kitchen is being planned for the Ag Center. It would work great for cooking demos. It will be covered with some kind of shade structure.
- b. The cost of materials for the roadway has increased but there should still be improvements made. The raised beds will be moved in front of the warehouse for a walking plaza, and some raised beds will be installed at waist height for better accessibility.
- c. Questions
 - i. Ann: Do you envision having a service road to drive behind the building with the extension of the orchard being in that area? Joshua: Yes, the orchard has about 20ft of clearance for a vehicle.
 - ii. Sue: Will you be adding bathrooms? Joshua: Definitely. We don't know which phase it will happen in.
 - iii. Bill: How real is the outdoor kitchen? Ann: We have to spend the money by June 30, 2023.
 - iv. Henry: When will an industrial kitchen be built here? Joshua: We will not have one here. It doesn't fit the purpose of the farm and is out of the Village's budget to build.

5. Development Plan for the Paseo Del Norte Property

- a. Plans for the Del Norte Property include pruning the trees and improving the irrigation. Right now, it takes 48 hours to water the east field. New irrigation plans are on the website.

The meeting was adjourned by Joshua at 3:59 pm.
 The next meeting is scheduled for January 18th at 3 pm.
 Respectively submitted by Sabrina Apodaca.

The Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Committee is an advisory committee and does not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board of Trustees or Planning and Zoning Commission. Any recommendations made by the Agriculture Committee are non-binding. All members of the public are invited to attend. Summary notes of meetings will be available upon request.

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