



Minutes

Village of Los Ranchos Agriculture Committee Meeting

DATE- 18th of January 2023 - 3:00 pm – 4.00 pm
Agri-Nature Center – 4920 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.

Minutes

Attendees: Chuck Lucas, Tim McDonough, Dan Gerry, Ann Simon, Joe Craig, Bill Shen, Henry Shonerd, Gil Benavidez, John Edward, Joshua O'Halloran, Dominic Tomba, Sabrina Apodaca.

1. Overview of Notes– The meeting was called to order by Joshua O'Halloran at 3:01 pm. Sabrina Apodaca read previous meeting minutes.
2. AgriFutures Report – Dan Gerry
 - a. We just held our 4th convening on the 9th of January.
 - b. The Economic Development and Agritourism team is working on getting Los Ranchos businesses as vendors at the Matanza to sell their goods.
 - c. The Research team is making a survey to see what information or education would benefit Los Ranchos residents. They are also comparing soil samples of fields with and without rotational grazing.
 - d. The Education team is looking at how they can support Los Ranchos Elementary and members of the team have attended the school council meeting.
 - e. The next convening will be on February 6th at 5:30 pm.
3. Agri Nature Center Report – Joshua O'Halloran
 - a. In December we hosted a sorghum threshing event at the Agri-Nature Center to show how it can be done with minimal equipment. We also talked about its uses.
 - b. We hosted representatives from the Xerces Society at the ag center to talk about integrated pest management and pollinator habitat. They will help us teach more workshops this coming semester.
 - c. We have begun planning for the matanza which will be held on February 25th. We will be selling 400 tickets this year instead of 200 and we are looking forward to a large community gathering!
 - d. The new NRCS Urban Conservationist came to the ag center to see the work we are doing there and learn about our programming. He is interested in getting to know the farming community here in the urban area to see how he can best

support them.

- e. Joshua is assisting Los Ranchos Elementary with one of their after-school genius
- f. hours in the afternoons during January and February to do some agricultural activities and campus beautification.
- g. Joshua attended the January New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council meeting to help them set their priorities for this coming legislative session.
- h. The Paseo Del Norte Open Space was ripped and laser leveled and is now in the engineering phase for the pipeline that will go in. This will help irrigate more efficiently. While it was being ripped, a large concrete pad was discovered and this is being removed as well.
- i. We held our fourth AgriFutures meeting in January and the teams are moving along with their projects for the year.
- j. We hosted the Albuquerque Beekeeper's Association for a class on December 8th at the Ag Center.

4. Tree Planting at Del Norte

- a. We are planting trees as a living noise barrier, soil retention, and beautification. We can use drip irrigation from the well to care for them. We're looking for drought-resistant trees like Afghan Pine.
- b. This is DOT land so we will need to look at the agreement we have with them to see what responsibility DOT has to help maintain the area and what responsibility the Village has.
- c. Joe: We should consider doing something about the eroded berm. The committee suggests green mass be planted to help prevent future erosion.

5. Road Update for the Ag Center

- a. The cost estimate came in for more than we had to spend and we're reconsidering the plan. What would you like to see?
- b. John: Places where people know they're allowed to picnic
- c. Joshua: An option is making the entrance more visible.
- d. John & Gil: We need to have programming to offset the costs of running the center. Ex: Grow flowers and offer photo permits for professional photographers.
- e. In the next phases of development at the Ag Center we need to add bathrooms, a kitchen, and an entryway.

6. Statue Placement

- a. We're considering placing the statue in the roundabout once the roadwork is finished.

The meeting was adjourned by Joshua at 4:20 pm.
The next meeting is scheduled for April 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.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend and/or

participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the Village Clerk at 505-344-6582 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.