



Minutes

**Village of Los Ranchos
Agriculture Committee Meeting
Agri-Nature Center located at 4920 Rio Grande Blvd NW
DATE- 19th of January 2022 - 3:00 pm – 4.00pm
Zoom Digital Meeting**

Minutes

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

1. Overview of Notes and Rules of Meeting – Meeting was called to order by Joshua O'Halloran at 3:02 pm. Sabrina Apodaca read previous meeting minutes.
2. Agri Nature Center Report – Joshua O'Halloran
 - a. O'Halloran's Gold Beer is on tap at Hops Brewery. The beer is made out of the Chinook hops grown at the Ag Center and pelletized at CNM.
 - b. The AgriFutures meeting was skipped in December since a lot of people are away for the holidays. The next AgriFutures meeting is January 10th at 5:30.
 - c. In December we held 2 workshops: Gardening with Native Plants with Wes Brittenham and Composting with Casey Williams.
 - d. We held a virtual town hall meeting on December 3rd and an in-person soil health day at the Agri-Nature center on December 4th to celebrate international soils day.
 - e. In 2021, our workshops brought in \$736.47 in online and cash sales with about 163 participants.
 - f. Submitted the Final Report for the Healthy Soils Program Grant. The grant is now complete.
 - g. Collaborated with Rio Grande Community Farm to hold a day long regenerative agriculture workshop for beginner farmers. This was the first in a series that will be a farmer incubator program.
 - h. We held the Ag Committee Meeting on December 15th where we did a review of the year. The slideshow will be submitted with this report.
 - i. We held a butchering workshop and a backyard composting workshop in the beginning of January. We processed a sheep for the butchering workshop and the composting workshop was taught by John Zarola of the Master Composters.
 - j. We are working with Nature's Nino's outdoor school. They will hold classes at the Agri-Nature Center three days every month throughout the Spring semester.
 - k. We are currently planning a Matanza for February 19th.
3. Questions from the Committee

- a. Sue Brawley
 - i. In the past, farmers from Rio Grande Community Farm were not allowed to sell their produce at the Growers Market. Does that apply to this community farm? Joshua: We are not selling produce. Our plan is to have everyone working on the same plot and donate the produce and take it home. Caitlin, a flower farmer, will also be growing on the farm but she might sell her flowers.
 - ii. Will the roadway take out some raised beds and grape vines? Joshua: It won't take out the vines out it will take out the corner of raised beds. We're thinking about moving some beds to what the parking lot is now.
 - b. Joe Craig
 - i. There is a water meter right in the middle of the current entrance. Can we move the entrance North, so we don't have to bump over it? Joshua: There is a culvert that goes under the entrance, could that be what you're bumping over?
 - ii. Do you know about the Sign Language Academy's Ag / Nature plan? Bill: I went to the meetings, and they have a lot of plans for vineyards and gardens.
4. Seed Library & Earth Day
- a. For Earth Day we're planning on holding an event where we sell plant starts, have a class with John Garlich, and debut the seed library.
 - b. Next steps: We need to make a call for seeds. Some companies may donate, and we can ask community for extra seeds. We found a space for the seed library and need to start working towards the April Deadline.
 - c. It would be good to have local Los Ranchos seed. Bill: I can bring Kentucky Wonder Bean seeds. I have about 5 pounds of that as well as dahlia tubers that I can donate.
 - d. We'll need to get organized for the plant / seed swap and solicit seeds for the seed library. Can Los Poblanos participate in seed swap in April? Do you have extra seed? Maxfield: Yes. We have herbs and Zuni corn.
5. AgriFutures Report
- a. The teams are making good progress. The only soil lab in New Mexico has shut down so our up-and-coming lab is of great interest.
 - b. The Regenerative Team is thinking about another Healthy Soils event.
 - c. The Economic Development Team has Ann Simon and Mayor Lopez, and they are looking at having a table at the Matanza to get feedback from the business community on Agritourism.
 - d. The Community Garden Team is meeting tomorrow to develop a crop plan.
6. Matanza
- a. The Matanza is scheduled on February 19th at 1pm. We put out a call for wood. If you know of any wood please let us know.
 - b. We also need volunteers for parking, ticket taking, etc.
 - c. Please make suggestions for live music.
 - d. How many pigs will there be? Joshua: Only 1. It will be cooked in the ground by Jon Young.
7. Other Business
- a. John: The Ag Committee has a special role. People need land to grow on. Land is starting to get sub-divided. We must have a voice to keep the land in farming. Joshua: The Village is doing a great job. Ann has been talking about purchasing more land. John: Not government owned but incentivizing with tax credits and

zoning laws to keep land open.

- i. Sarah: I agree. Let's keep our eyes open. I think the promotion of Ag is what this Committee is for. We can turn non-productive landscapes into growing, like front or back yards. We don't need multi-acre parcels. We can build relationships with landowners.
- b. Sue: What is the ANC doing to get water rights? Joshua: We're in the process of getting more water rights and contracting with Kim Frasier to claim existing and get new water rights. Ann: We're drilling a new well and doing it for livestock so we can get 3 acre/feet.
 - i. John: We can look at how to use flood irrigation and ditch water. Let's take the 1 month of allocated water and store it to use efficiently. Joshua: I don't think that's legal.
 - ii. Henry: Lets talk about this at a later meeting and see how to do this effectively.
 - iii. Joshua: Also, we're also looking at drought resistant crops. John: Pecans and alfalfa are crops that use the most water. Bill: Grapes don't need a lot of water in summer to make better fruit and it matches our water climate perfectly.
 - iv. Joshua: We'll continue this discussion next meeting on the legality, rain catching, drip systems running on ditch water, and demonstrating those at the ANC.

Meeting was adjourned by Joshua at 3:53 PM
Next meeting is scheduled on February 16th at 3pm
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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