

LA JUNTA COLORADO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Colorado Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. via virtual meeting. The meeting was called to order by Nancy Bennett.

**Board Members Present**

**Absent**

Nancy Bennett  
Christine Coffield  
Rebecca Goodwin  
Trevor Herasingh  
Chad Penner  
Jeffri Pruyn

T.J. Martinez  
Justin Miller  
Cisco Perez

Also present: Cynthia Nieb, Economic/Urban Renewal Director  
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk/UR Secretary  
Bette McFarren, Rocky Ford Gazette

**MINUTES:** October 8, 2020 and November 12, 2020

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the October 8, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Rebecca Goodwin, seconded by Trevor Herasingh that the minutes for October 8, 2020 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Bennett then asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the November 12, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, a motion was made by Trevor Herasingh, seconded by Rebecca Goodwin that the minutes for November 12, 2020 be approved as published. The motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:** December 2020

The budgets for Urban Renewal and the Colorado Local Government had not been separated at this time (December 2020). This will be reflected in the January 2021 financial statements. Cynthia Nieb informed the board, that the \$7,000 from 2020 budget was approved to be rolled over into the 2021 budget, making a total of \$14,000 for the 2021 calendar year.

A motion was made by Trevor Herasingh, seconded by Rebecca Goodwin that the report is accepted as given. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS: Youth Symposium**

- A. 2021 Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Commemoration – Youth Symposium. Update provided by Rebecca Goodwin.

We would like to thank the La Junta CLG Board for their support of the SFT Bicentennial Commemoration Youth Symposium; and provide you with an update on the project. We applied for a SHF grant for the Youth Symposium at the October 1 deadline. The funds committed by the La Junta CLG were to be part of the cash match for that grant. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant. Reviewers indicated they thought the grades 9-12 Symposium would be redundant since the Preserve America Youth Summit scheduled to be held in the area in June 2020 was postponed until June 2021, even though it is not focused on the SF Trail. In addition, only 20 of over 60 grant applications received funding due to SHF's limited funds because of the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted taxes paid by the gambling casinos.

Providing an opportunity for youth and educators to learn about the Santa Fe Trail and the preservation of historic linear trails was a high priority for the group planning the bicentennial commemoration symposium. The youth committee has reevaluated the Youth Symposium and would like to proceed with providing the opportunity for the one-day grade 6 through 8 Symposium, and this has been approved by the SFT Symposium Planning Committee. If we can get financial commitments to cover the scaled down Youth Symposium, we can still offer this important educational/preservation opportunity to youth and their teachers.

We have cash sponsorships from the Otero County CLG and Metcalf Archeology. We would like to respectfully request that the La Junta CLG consider providing the sponsorship they originally approved so this opportunity can move forward. The funds from the supporters of this event will cover the following items:

1. Travel, lodging, and per diem for the expert presenters from outside the area. (none are being paid or receiving an honorarium)
2. Supplies including name tags, composition notebooks for attendees, printing of handouts and other associated costs (including PPE, thermometers, etc. if needed due to COVID-19)
3. A stipend to each participating school district from outside the area to help defray the costs of travel to the event.
4. Box lunches and water for participants and presenters.
5. Coordination, logistics, recruitment of students and teachers, compilation and dissemination of outcomes from event.

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The Youth Symposium committee will be meeting later this month to move forward with the planning and organization of the event. Originally Metcalf Archeology planned to work with the team and high school students to develop a digital platform utilizing augmented reality (AR) to create a comprehensive interpretation of the Santa Fe Trail which will be hosted on websites and available for use in schools. We plan to adapt this concept to the Grades 6-8 Symposium so students/teachers can participate in the development of this exciting platform to share the storey of the SFT and what they experience with a broader audience.

DISCUSSION: The Board would suggest offering up to \$6,500.00 and to continue to find other funding and/or additional contributions. Rebecca Goodwin stated that she will abstain from the vote. Jeffri Pruyn stated since she was super busy and did not hear any of the discussion; she will be abstaining as well. There will not be enough board members to vote on the motion. A Special Meeting will be scheduled on Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. This is the reason for additional discussion regarding regular meeting attendance. There are a lot of other boards where if you miss three meetings in a row you have to give up your seat, unless there's a really good reason.

MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR THE YOUTH SYMPOSIUM: Herasingh

SECOND: Coffield

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION FOR A BOARD MEMBER TO CONSIDER STEPPING DOWN IF THEY HAVE MISSED THREE CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS: Pruyn

SECOND: Herasingh

DISCUSSION: A letter will need to be sent out to all the board members letting them know about the new attendance policy and to respond if they are capable of making that commitment. A confirmation should be sent to Nancy, as the chair, by a certain date.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

- B. Cynthia Nieb: We have an annual review coming up for CLG. It has to be some time this year. It will be a visit. There will be a lot of information that needs to be put together. It will be going onto our website.
- C. Rebecca Goodwin: I am involved with the National Park Service Task Force committee, which under the Department of the Interior, will be deciding how the apportionment of funds to all of the CLG's will happen. Part of that apportionment is based on the Census. There will be a CLG questionnaire being sent out. I would like for all of you to be thinking about what are the things that are really important from a funding standpoint.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

  
Nancy Bennett, Chairperson