

The Rico Center Board Meeting

Thursday, June 13th, 2019

6:30 pm

Gretchen Treadwell's House

**1. Call to Order/Roll call**

Cristal called the meeting to order at 6:38. In attendance were Cristal Hibbard, Gretchen Treadwell, Laura Pick, Katie Stokes, Florence Ezell, Barbara Betts, and Julie Bain. Cristal announced that Nancy Scarborough has resigned, due to new commitments with her graduate program. Barbara also plans to give up her spot, so with Julie we still have one open spot. Lasha Farrar is interested and Cristal will follow up.

**2. Approval of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**

Gretchen moved to approve the minutes, Laura seconded.

**3. Approval of Agenda.**

Katie moved to approve the agenda, Barbara seconded.

**4. Financials & Grant Status**

Cristal reported from Emily that the Historical Society, Women's Club, RTA, and Town had all requested funds; checks were delivered and paid out. For the town, we still await an invoice for the \$8,000 for the economic analysis. Also Jenny Nunley canceled the check for the canceled Memorial Day ceremony. Parks and Rec, KSJD, and the Artists of Rico have not yet requested funds.

**5. Fourth of July updates**

During the May meeting we discussed using the Rico shuttle. Cristal spoke with Kari Distefano and she likes the idea, and wants to help us acquire it for use in the parade. There is indeed a hitch to pull a trailer with the RTA snowmobile. We still need a CDL driver, Joe Dillsworth and Rob Huber are possibilities; Cristal will follow up. Cristal will also speak to Nancy about getting more wands, and Gretchen will do a count on tutus from last year. We will likely use bubbles and throw candy. Meeting time is 10 a.m. behind the church for the parade lineup.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Memorial Day**

As noted, the check for Jenny Nunley was canceled after the ceremony was canceled. This was due to the Big Rock (rockslide Friday of Memorial Day weekend on Highway 145). Emily spoke with Jenny and encouraged her to apply next year for an in-cycle grant.

**b. Award letters/grant fund requests**

As discussed at the May meeting, we hope to clarify process for awarding and requesting funds via revised or new forms on our website. Everyone can please review and share suggestions by July 1.

**1. New Business**

**a. County Commissioner Meeting Monday, July 8th 10am**

Cristal noted that a good showing is important and hopes all who can be present will attend. Cristal will also ask Emily to invite our grant recipients, and with this include a reminder about grant report and grant request deadlines. Cristal, Emily, and Gretchen will work together on upcoming presentation.

**b. Julie Bain**

Julie shared with us her former role with TRC, which included coordinating communication and administrative duties. She looks forward to renewing her involvement as a board member with the Rico Center. Cristal moved to invite Julie to serve on the board, Barbara seconded.

**2. Engel House -Barb Turrin**

Barb Turrin arrived at 7 to speak about Engel House history, TRC's role, and current status:

- In 2007 the house was purchased via combined funding from the Colorado Historical Fund and the Gates Foundation, as well as \$9,000 from TRC. The goal was preservation and to avoid purchase from a developer—Rico has few historic houses. The house was named for Charles Engel who was a prominent person and active contributor to Rico, worthy of recognition. At this initial point, TRC owned it, but this raised concerns with the County Commissioners as it was considered an asset. As such, TRC signed the deed over to the Rico Historical Society in 2015, who still leases it to TRC. Barb T. was a TRC board member at the time of transfer, and has continued to oversee the property on her own time, without any official designation or agency representation.
- The house needs work, namely exterior maintenance including paint, trim, and foundation repair; to access the foundation the deck needs to be removed. Barb T. has tried multiple times to acquire funding/grants from the Colorado Historical Fund. This has proved very difficult with new details and requirements arising with each application, alongside high turnover with representatives at the Historical Fund.
- Barb T. is now working with the Colorado Historical Foundation (different organization, Fund vs. Foundation) to coordinate repairs in compliance with historical structure/architecture, and is planning to use \$32,000 from a TRC

grant that was awarded to the Historical Society. She has put out a call for contractor bids yet has had no local response yet. Barbara asked about Dan Holmes as potential contractor for foundation, and will follow up with him. Gretchen mentioned Andy Frunk.

- If improvements are made, what could Rico do with the Engel House? Per Barb T.: visitor center, meeting place, rentals for weddings/events, even and AirBnB. Katie asked about it being our museum, which is also plausible, especially if current museum space became a visitor center, which could be staffed by a town intern already in place.
- Next steps: How can TRC be involved? Barbara B. asked whether we could offer administrative support. Along with writing the checks for upcoming services, perhaps Emily could research what it would take to place the Engel House on the Colorado State Registry of Historic Properties. Emily may also be able to coordinate communication with potential contractors. Another grant from the Gates Foundation is also a possibility.

Next meeting scheduled for August 15th at Florence Ezell's house.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Approved the 19 day of August, 2019  
Attest: 

