

Las Posadas Five County Board
October 9, 2023
Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Matt Torrance at 7:06 PM

Michelle Machado moved to accept the minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded and passed.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Matt shared information from an email he received from Steven Worker.

Steven said that he could not participate in an advocacy campaign to regain the camp. In reference to suggestions of talking points shared by board members, he also suggested we strengthen the argument for use of Las Posadas as a camp site specifically. He asked that we decrease references to 4-H in the opening paragraph. He also said that we will be asked to decrease any indication that implies a specific connection between the board and UC.

After requests from members and discussion, Matt said he would share the information from Steven in an email to the board.

Wayne Reeves questioned why UC is not supporting camp. Members clarified that 4-H professionals in each county support camp programs but not the facilities where the camps are held. The board has taken on the responsibility to maintain the facility as Las Posadas and is recognized as a support group to 4-H. For their protection, all elected board members are covered by director's insurance. 4-H youth and leaders participating in the camp program are covered by 4-H insurance.

Lease

Matt said Steven has sent him a copy of the last lease for 2002 to 2007. We were not offered another lease after that. Cal Fire now cites the absence of a lease as justification for them to take over the property and facilities. Matt will send copies of that lease to board members. He will also forward copies of the CEQUA report, which is also available online.

We were asked by Cal Fire to go forward without a lease while they sought approval of plans for the new fire station. They were also trying to sell bonds to raise funds. We were told the lease could muddy the title to the property.

Tom suggested we do a public records search to get copies of the emails and letters that gave us year-to-year permission to use the camp, and anything else to do with Las Posadas. He suggested that this could give Chief Marcucci an incentive to work with us on a pathway back to camp.

Tom was told by a Forester that Cal Fire has been using the property for training and other purposes which may not be in compliance with the restrictions of the deed. Tom suggests we use these records to counter their arguments about our use of camp.

Google Doc

Matt thanked Tom Baldocchi for sharing his draft of an opening paragraph for letters to potential supporters. Michelle asked to clarify that Cal Fire did not actually say "no" to our regaining the camp.

She would like to add suggested changes to Tom's document. She will use a different color to show they are additions.

Wayne questioned the \$30,000,000 in repairs and improvements Cal Fire says are needed at camp. He suggested we ask them to document any work we have done that is not up to code. We do have a list of the work they feel is needed and Tom will forward it to Wayne. Alex said he thinks we can get around Cal Fire's need to be in charge of construction but not from the requirements of Public Works projects.

Next Steps

We will reach out to our contacts in the next few days and report back at the next regular meeting. If anyone has information to share before that, please email the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05

Submitted by

Margaret Close

Attendance

Alameda – Jim Richards

Contra Costa – Devon Baldocchi, Tom Baldocchi, Wayne Reeves

Marin – Matt Torrance, Duncan McAndrews, Alex Wilbanks, Allison Brandenburg, Scott Brandenburg.

Napa –

Sonoma – Michelle Machado, Lisa Bianchi, Margaret Close.