

Orient Land Trust Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Seitz Residence - Valley View Hot Springs
Saturday, June 9, 2007 – 10:00 AM

MINUTES

- I. Record attendance – Chris Miller, Doug Bishop, John Eiseman, Mark Hayes, Amy Beatie, Dan Jones, Neil Seitz, Terry Seitz, and Betsy Miller present. Bruce Goforth and Harold Pratt not present, with notice.
- II. Meeting call to order – Chris called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
- III. Changes to Agenda – Terry introduced correspondence from a woman wishing to do botanical research at OLT but it was agreed it didn't require an agenda item. Chris added XVIe to review the policy regarding purchase of raffle tickets.
- IV. Minutes from March 10, 2007 annual meeting and executive session (attached) – Amy moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2007 annual meeting. Dan seconded. No discussion and the motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Amy moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2007 Executive Session. Dan seconded. No discussion and the motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.
- V. Questions/comments from guests – Chris welcomed guests Don Geddes, Saguache liaison; Lea Bonewell, Resource Development Committee chair; Radar Baker, astronomy program lead volunteer; Barb Tidd, former Board chair and current staff member; Kai Allen and Terry Klein, prospective Board members.
- VI. Executive Director's report – Neil discussed his report (attached,) which included information on grants received and the staff plan to pursue future grants, the raffle fundraiser, outreach, current land projects including ranch management issues and other projects. He noted volunteers are needed for the Crestone Bazaar on July 4, the OLT 4th of July Fireworks, OLT Member Weekend July 27, 28 & 29, and Crestone Music Festival, Aug. 4-5.
- VII. Secretary's report/Correspondence – There was no correspondence from the secretary.
- VIII. Treasurer's report –
 - a. John presented the latest income statements, balance sheet and cash flow statements (attached,) noting recent months had been profitable. Low expenditures, coupled with strong membership and program revenues, and investments, have rendered OLT ahead of budget. There was discussion of the endowment, which has been seeded with \$20,000, and the new Restricted Funds and Cash Investments report which will be required by the investment policy when adopted. Mark moved to approve the Treasurer's Report exclusive of the additional report. Doug seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.
 - b. Chris passed the chair to John and presented charts showing updated OLT performance statistics including income from donations and admissions and number of visitors (attached.) Chris noted that the staff's timely follow-up letters to guests

had shown a good response and increased donations. John returned the chair to Chris.

- IX. Resource Development Committee report – Lea noted the committee had identified Kai and Terry K. as potential candidates for the open Board position. Lea and Mark offered to assist with grant writing, specifically the Colorado DOW Colorado Wildlife Conservation Grant program. Regarding Outreach Committee activities, planning for fund raising projects scheduled later in the year is moving forward. Lea also handed out copies of *The Chiropteran*, the Colorado Bat Society Newsletter, and an issue of *Colorado Outdoors* magazine, both of which contained articles on OLT and the Orient Bat Cave.
 - a. Fundraising Plan – Neil outlined the fundraising goals for 2007 (\$12,000 in grants, \$147,000 memberships and \$40,000 from the raffle) and offered to provide a revised budget to the Board for action. It was determined that this was not required given the known fluctuations in budget items during the year.

Following a lunch break at 11:48 AM, and a presentation on bat natural history by Mark and Lea the meeting resumed at 12:45 PM.

- X. Questions/comments from guests – Terry G. offered the information that the Saguache Credit Union was offering a good interest rate through next week. Terry S. made a note to investigate. Terry K. suggested OLT work with other organizations, like the Taos Land Trust, to maximize fundraising for both organizations. Neil said OLT has traded raffle prizes with TLT in the past.
- XI. Land Management Plan Committee report – Doug reported the committee has been working toward accepting the Founder’s donation of 350 acres to OLT. Committee members have met with legal counsel to discuss contractual issues in preparation for bringing a document to the Board for approval. Doug reported the contract should be fairly straightforward, with details regarding title insurance and environmental hazards still being finalized. There was discussion of recent changes in EPA exemptions regarding volunteerism and mines, which will be investigated further. The committee will continue to finalize the contract, and Board input can be obtained via email to complete the process in anticipation of accepting the donation at the September meeting. Board members thanked the committee for their efforts on this item and agreed it was a good example of how the committees can function to complete OLT tasks between Board meetings.
- XII. Land Action Plan Committee report – Mark reported there was no significant input for this meeting, but he will have a full report at the next meeting.
- XIII. Board Development Committee report – Amy introduced Kai and Terry K. as applicants for the open Board position which expires March 2008. Both attended the meeting and the committee will make a recommendation before the next Board meeting. Amy noted that there are opportunities for anyone interested in working with OLT to do so through the committee structure, as well as on the Board.
- XIV. Temporary Endowment Startup Committee report – Neil reported the committee had identified counsel to work on establishing the endowment and will continue to finalize the process in keeping with the OLT investment policies.

XV. Unfinished business –

- a. Investment Policy – John presented version 3 of the investment policy (attached.) The policy addresses the methods, procedures, and practices which must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious financial management of OLT’s funds. Following discussion, it was agreed that version 4 of the document will be finalized for review by the endowment attorney and adoption by the Board at the September meeting.
- b. Task List – Chris turned the chair over to John to lead a brief review of the Board task list (attached.) Status of the items was discussed and will continue at the next meeting.

Following a break at 2:20 PM, the meeting resumed at 2:35 PM. The Board agreed to take up item XVib first as it continued from the Task List discussion above.

XVI. New Business –

- a. Item #55 on the Board Task List is to create a policy regarding committing OLT to raising necessary funds for stewardship and enforcement of easements to conform with LTA standards. Neil stated that the Endowment policy refers to this issue. John agreed that OLT has the policy in place for stewardship, and fundraising is ongoing. The Board concurred that this item can remain on the Board Task List until there is a need to finalize such a policy.
- b. Create Outreach Committee – Item #7 on the Board Task List was to create an Outreach Committee to act as a liaison between OLT membership, volunteers, the larger community and the Board. Don Geddes, Rob Zabrecky, Annie Pace, Lea Bonewell, Dan Jones, John Eiseman, and Neil Seitz have volunteered to serve on such a committee. The Board agreed committee members would choose a chair and define a mission statement for Board approval. Doug moved to establish the Outreach Committee subject to OLT Bylaws governing committees. John seconded. The motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Chris resumed the chair, and returned to item XVIa above.
- c. Proposed Plans for The Everson Ranch (attached) – Neil discussed land management issues for the ranch, including the recently built reservoir and wildlife-friendly fences to discourage cattle from entering the wetlands. Staff has been working with NRCS on a grant project to improve irrigation and farm an alfalfa/native grasses mix. NRCS has specific requirements as to how monies can be spent and desires to complete the project in 2007. There is money budgeted for this project over two years, so the Board would need to agree to amend the budget to complete the project in 2007. It was John’s opinion as Treasurer that the finances could withstand this budget acceleration and his opinion as a Board member that the project fits with the OLT conservation mission. Neil’s recommendation is that he continues to research the issues and keep the Board informed. The Board expressed its approval of the current ranch management and encouraged staff to continue with restoration and improvements. If Board action is required to amend the budget prior to the September meeting, Chris noted a vote can be taken by email.

- d. Number of Board meetings for 2008 – Chris asked the Board’s opinion as to how many meetings the Board should schedule for 2008. With committees taking on more of the work load, it was agreed that the Board could proceed with the previous plan to move to four meetings per year to be held at 10 AM on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Neil noted that when necessary, Board business can be conducted via email and conference call according to the Bylaws.
- e. Discussion of raffle ticket purchase – In 2006, the Board resolved that no Board members would put a raffle ticket in his or her name. It was agreed that this policy should be extended to 2007 and all future raffles. Amy moved that no Board member would put a raffle ticket in his or her name for the 2007 raffle and all future raffles. Dan seconded. The motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

XVII. Executive Session – The regular Board meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM. Following a break, the Board convened in Executive Session at 4:05 PM to discuss real estate matters. Executive Session adjourned at 4:50 PM and the regular session reconvened.

XVIII. Announcements –

- a. The next meeting date was confirmed for Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007 at 10 AM at the Seitz residence.
- b. There will be a “Meet the Staff” breakfast for Board members (1 hour) tomorrow, Sunday, June 10 at 8:30 - 9:30 AM.
- c. There will be an Everson Ranch Tour tomorrow, Sunday, June 10, from 9:30 -11:30 AM. Meet at the Welcome Center.
- d. The LTA National Land Conservation Conference New Frontiers of Conservation will be held Oct. 3-6, 2007 at Adam’s Mark Hotel in Denver. Registration is now open and staff will coordinate signups for maximum coverage.
- e. Regular meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM. Amy moved to adjourn, Mark seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was adopted: all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

_____ / _____

_____ / _____

Betsy Miller, Secretary Date

Chris Miller, Chair Date

Guests: Lea Bonewell, Don Geddes, Kai-Uwe Allen, Robin Radar Baker, Terry Klein, Barb Tidd, Terry Godfrey, Greg Hayes and Zack Hayes