



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

REVISED

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA
WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,
2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Johnson-Burick

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Mayor Barraza requested changing Item #5 before Item #4.

Motion: To approve agenda as amended, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Second by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

4. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.

Mr. Taylor read correspondence regarding the Taylor family.

Mr. Gil stated he will accept the board's decision on the consumption lounge.

Ms. Ratje invited everyone to the celebration on Saturday, August 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the Mesilla Plaza. Asked that the mayor or designee to take an active and positive role in helping guide and support advisory committees. Reviewed the membership fees for Friends of the Taylor Family Monument.

Ms. Walkinshaw read correspondence

Ms. Krueger stated her concerns with the cannabis consumption lounge, Board of Adjustments appointments and the pending variance. Advised the PZHAC to use the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Ms. Kahn stated she feels the consumption lounge would be an asset to Mesilla.

Ms. Witter read a section of the Open Meetings Act regarding board minutes. At the Board of Trustees Public Hearing no one was sworn in which could impact how the trustees vote.

Mr. Williamson thanked everyone for their comments which addressed his concerns and helped him understand how the consumption lounge will operate.

Mr. Tafoya stated Mr. Jouda is one of their dispensers and ensures they are doing it the legal way. This would help bring revenue to the town.

Mr. Ross stated his support for the consumption lounge.

Mr. Madrid stated his support for the consumption lounge.

Mr. Jouda explained how the lounge will operate and how the air filter will operate.

Unidentified participant stated his support for the consumption lounge.

Unidentified participant stated his support for the consumption lounge.

Mr. Holguin stated his support for the consumption lounge.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: (The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk *)

Motion: To approve the consent agenda, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Second by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated a correction to the June 26, 2023 BOT minutes: page 9 line 24. Should read "some animals will be killed".

Trustee Garcia asked if the minutes are provided to the residents.

Mayor Barraza responded that is not an agenda item. That will be discussed with the BOT.

Trustee Garcia stated not providing (draft) minutes to the public is in violation of the Open Meeting Act.

Mayor Barraza responded her research stated the minutes needed to be approve before making them available to the public, she will get clarification from the Attorney General.

Trustee Garcia stated she does not want to approve the minutes until they receive clarification.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated the one provided does say....

Trustee Garcia stated she is concerned that they are not provided to the public within 10 days.

Trustee Cadena stated agrees they need to be provided to the public.

Mayor Barraza stated she was researching it and that is what she read on the website.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she knows they need to follow the Open Meeting Act but tonight we are just approving the minutes, these are two separate issues. A (minutes) draft can be posted.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked if they were posted.

Mayor Barraza responded the request came in at 4:15 p.m. this afternoon making it difficult to do more research. The (draft) minutes were not posted, only the agenda was posted. Read Open Meetings Act regarding minutes.

Trustee Johnson-Burick called for Point of Order

Amended Motion: To postpone items 5a, 5b, and 5c, Moved by Trustee Cadena, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3, No=1)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- a) ***BOT MINUTES** - Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 26, 2023 *Postponed*
- b) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 24, 2023 *Postponed*
- c) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Worksession/Special Meeting, July 27, 2023 *Postponed*

6. STAFF REPORTS

- a) Resolution 2023-13 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) – Rod McGillivray

Mr. McGillivray gave a presentation on the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). No one attended the two public meetings.

- b) Authorization of Engineering Services Agreement between Molzen-Corbin and the Town of Mesilla for reconstruction of Calle de Santiago – Rod McGillivray

Mr. McGillivray reviewed the Engineering Services Agreement between Molzen-Corbin and the Town of Mesilla for the reconstruction of Calle de Santiago.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **PZHAC License #1125** – 1930 Calle de Parian, submitted by Anita Rivard, requesting approval to do business within Town of Mesilla jurisdiction and open a retail store, Mi Corazon Encantado. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC)

Motion: To approve PZHAC License #1125 – 1930 Calle de Parian, submitted by Anita Rivard, Requesting approval to do business with Town of Mesilla jurisdiction and open a retail store, Mi Corazon Encantado. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (**summary:** Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- c) **PZHAC License #1128** - 2114 Calle de Picacho submitted by Adriel Daniel Villa Torrez, requesting approval to do business in the Town of Mesilla as a cannabis courier. Mr. Torrez will

be working out of his home and is seeking a home occupation license. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To approve PZHAC License #1128 – 2114 Calle de Picacho submitted by Ariel Daniel Villa Torrez, requesting approval to do business in the Town of Mesilla as a cannabis courier. Mr. Torres will be working out of his home and is seeking a home occupation license, with conditions. Zone: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Discussion regarding the address on the license and insurance.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

d) **PZHAC SUP Case #061636** – 2060 Calle de Parian, submitted by The Cannabis Tropical, requesting approval for a consumption lounge. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC) *Postponed*
Mayor Barraza requested the postponement of Case 061636 due to the fact that the individuals were not sworn in at the Public Hearing; procedures not followed.

Motion: To postpone PZHAC SUP Case #061636 – 2060 Calle de Parian, submitted by the Cannabis Tropical, requesting approval for a consumption lounge. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Second by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion Passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

e) **PZHAC Case #061676** – 1950 Calle del Norte, submitted by Andale Restaurant. Requesting approval to install an outdoor washout station on the south side of the building, next to dumpsters. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061676 – 1950 Calle del Norte, submitted by Andale Restaurant. Request approval to install an outdoor washout station on the south side of the building, next to dumpsters. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

f) **PZHAC Case #061681** – 2030 Calle de Parian, submitted by Anita Rivard, requesting approval to install a hanging sign on her new business location. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC)

Motion: To approve Case #061681 – 2030 Calle de Parian, submitted by Anita Rivard, requesting approval to install a hanging sign on her new business location. Zone: Historical commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- g) **PZHAC Case #061683** – submitted by Charles Roger requesting zoning approval to install outdoor goose neck type light over hanging sign at 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, Wild West Express -O. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC)

Motion: To approve Case #061683 – submitted by Charles Roger requesting zoning approval to install outdoor goose neck type light over hanging sign at 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, Wild West Express-O. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- h) **PZHAC Case #061684** – 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Wild West Express-O, requesting approval to install a layered wall mount sign over the business main entrance. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC)

Motion: To approve Case #061684 – 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Wild West Express-O, requesting approval to install a layered wall mount sign over the business main entrance. Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- i) **PZHAC Case #061685** – 2878 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Jeffrey Buras, requesting approval to replace an existing window with an exterior door. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061674 – 2878 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Jeffrey Buras, requesting approval to replace an existing window with an exterior door. Zone: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

j) **PZHAC Case #061686** – 1960 Calle Pacana, submitted by Andrea Schneider, requesting approval to divide property into two parcels. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To approve Case #061686 – 1960 Calle Pacana, submitted by Andrea Schneider, requesting approval to divide property into two parcels. Zone: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Trustee Garcia asked if this case was posted. Asked if there is supposed to be a sign on the property.

Mayor Barraza responded no.

Mr. Salazar stated the reason it was not posted since it is not considered a subdivision.

Trustee Cadena asked if it meets the requirements of the historical residential area.

Mr. Salazar responded yes. At one point there were two parcels, then became one, it is now going back to being two separate parcels.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick yes

k) **PZHAC Case #061692** – 2875 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Gary and Laura Ramsey, requesting approval to build a primary residence. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To Approve PZHAC #061692 – 2875 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Gary and Laura Ramsey, requesting approval to build a primary residence. Zone: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the design standards compliance is not in the packet.

Mr. Salazar responded he apologizes for not including that in the packet. After reviewing the plans, he found that they do comply with the historical preservation section of the code. Asked for guidance on how to proceed.

Mayor Barraza responded those types of items will be covered in a joint worksession.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she wants to ensure that all requirements are met.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- l) **PZHAC Case #061696** – 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Billy the Kid Gift Shop, requesting approval to install a layered hanging sign on the south side of the building (Calle de Parian). Zone: Historical Commercial (HC).

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061696 – 2385 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Billy the Kid Gift Shop, requesting approval to install a layered hanging sign on the south side of the building (Calle de Parian). Zone: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- l) **APPROVAL:** Resolution 2023-13 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)

Motion: To approve Resolution 2023-13 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) as amended, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia stated there is nothing on the ICIP for the Fire Department.

Mayor Barraza responded that the radios are for both the Marshal and Fire Department.

Trustee Garcia asked to move water system items before playground equipment.

Mayor Barraza responded that can be done as the legislators look at the top five.

Trustee Garcia stated she forwarded grant information for electric vehicles charging stations, and did the town apply for any funding.

Mr. McGillvray responded the minimum project needed to be at \$500,000 with a 25% match.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- m) **APPROVAL:** Authorization of Engineering Services Agreement between Molzen-Corbin and the Town of Mesilla for reconstruction of Calle de Santiago

Motion: To approve the Authorization of Engineering Services Agreement between Molzen-Corbin and the Town of Mesilla for reconstruction of Calle de Santiago, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

n) **APPROVAL:** Resolution 2023-14 Regular Municipal Election

Motion: To approve Resolution 2023-14 Regular Municipal Election, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia asked if there will be voting poll in the town during the election.

Mayor Barraza responded early voting will be held at the town hall in the Visitor's Center, also a drop box is in place in the front of town hall. On election day voting will be at Mesilla Elementary.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

o) **APPROVAL:** NMML Voting Delegate and Alternate 2023 Annual Conference

Mayor Barraza asked if the board is okay with her being the voting delegate.

Trustee Garcia nominated Mayor Pro Tem Merrick as the alternate.

Motion: To approve the NMML Voting Delegate and Alternate 2023 Annual Conference, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

p) **APPROVAL:** Professional Service Agreement for financial technical support and assistance between Mr. Juan Fuentes and the Town of Mesilla

Mayor Barraza stated there is a need for assistance in the Finance Department. She gave the history of Mr. Fuentes's experience.

Motion: To approve Professional Service Agreement for financial technical support and assistance between Mr. Juan Fuentes and the Town of Mesilla as amended, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated her concern with the fee. Asked how many hours a week he will be assisting.

Mayor Barraza responded we are looking at about 20 hours a week. The agreement can have a clause stating not to exceed a certain amount.

Mr. Fuentes stated there might be additional hours initially, but he does not foresee this being a part-time position.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the town has financial limitations.

Mr. Fuentes stated once everything is reviewed, and deadlines are met things will begin to taper off.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked about his background and what he has done.

Mr. Fuentes gave a brief overview of his expertise.

Trustee Garcia asked for clarification on mileage and other charges in the agreement.

Mr. Fuentes responded he will be travelling from Santa Teresa, round trip. There are times when things can be done remotely. Time will start when I arrive at the town hall.

Trustee Cadena asked for progress and update reports.

Mayor Barraza responded that language can be added to the agreement.

Trustee Garcia stated everyone has their way of doing things and the last two previous town clerks did not ask or were they given any help.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked that Ms. Gomez be included in the training.

Trustee Johnson-Burick recommended \$60 an hour plus mileage.

Mayor Barraza stated we can ask for monthly updates. Our goal is to get things flowing correctly.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

q) APPROVAL: Disposal of Property: Two (2) vehicles

Mayor Barraza stated there are currently four (4) inoperable vehicles behind the town hall. The Fire Department is requesting two (2) vehicles to use during their training.

Fire Chief Whited stated these vehicles can be used for training which includes cutting people out of vehicles.

Motion: To approve disposal of property: Two (2) vehicles, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia asked if those were the vehicles approved to put out on auction.

Mayor Barraza responded yes but they never sold. There will be more vehicles coming forth to the trustees. The vehicles are inoperable. We will also look at selling them to the Fire Academy in Socorro. She understands that they pay \$500 for these vehicles.

Trustee Garcia asked that research be done to see if those are the vehicles the board approved to sell.

Roll Call Vote: (summary: Yes=4)

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

7. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Johnson-Burick: update on the MPO meeting, next MPO meeting is September 13th.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: update on the MPO meeting

Mayor Barraza: MPO and ICIP meeting

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

(Written staff reports included in packets)

Marshal Salas introduced Officer Reyes.

Fire Chief Whited reviewed the hours of the volunteer fire fighters so if you see any of them, thank them. Graduation will be on Saturday, September 2nd at the fire department. We have applied for the State Fire Grant which is \$150,000 towards communications and a Stipend Grant. We also applied for a Water Grant, currently we are the only agency in the area that qualifies for that grant.

Mr. McGillivray stated the main component for the sound system is on backorder.

Ms. Maya passed out state investment statements and bank reconciliation form.

Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if the investments can be moved or reset.

Mayor Barraza responded those are things that will be addressed/answered with Mr. Fuentes.

Trustee Cadena asked for clarification regarding the Taylor situation. Feels it is important for the town and it should be promoted. The board needs to follow procedures regarding permits.

Trustee Garcia asked if the board needs to vote on appointments to the Lodger's Tax Committee.

Mayor Barraza responded no they do not.

Trustee Garcia stated the ordinance shows that they do need to approve the appointments.

Mayor Barraza stated she found the ordinance.

Trustee Garcia stated she would email it anyway. Asked about the Architectural Styles Committee.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated it may be a good idea to keep government issued identification out of the packets.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she has questions for Mr. Fuentes.

Mayor Barraza asked that the board submit questions or concerns and we will address them with Mr. Fuentes.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked if it would be easier if she sat down with him.

Mayor Barraza responded no, submit those items to her.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated there needs to be more clarity and transparency for the board and residents when it comes to financial issues.

Mayor Barraza stated the New Mexico Municipal League Conference is August 29th through September 1st in Farmington. Submit travel expenses reimbursements to the office. The celebration for Mr. Taylor is on Saturday, August 26th in the plaza.

Ms. Ratje reviewed the membership fees. People who have joined and paid their membership fees will be allowed to tour the home if the air conditioning is operable.

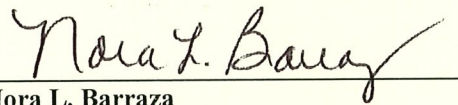
Mayor Barraza stated the server has been updated. Due to the installation of the update, there was a glitch when the agenda was uploaded onto the website. Ms. Sellers is getting ready for the fiesta. Mr. Salazar is working on ensuring personal information is not being shared with the public. We will require a two-hour turn around in fulfilling resident's request.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes=4)

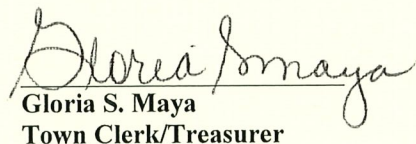
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2023.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria S. Maya
Town Clerk/Treasurer



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SIGN UP SHEET
AUGUST 17, 2023**

NAME	ADDRESS
Mary H. Ratje Pat Taylor	2731 Calle de Santiago Mesilla
Henry Gil	P.O. 1134 Mesilla
GREG LESTER	2557 Calle de Parian
AUDREA BRYAN	2557 Calle de Parian
Shamek Vallanra	2134 Calle de Principal
Bader Jouda	2060 Calle de Parian
Jonathan Spideler	98 Oak St
Jeremy Uero	3908 Creek Ave
Jayson Schlobahn	3245 E University
Greg Church	Mosilla Road
CRYSTAL Dany Weir	
LeWett Kuhn	1425 Roberts Dr.
GARY POMPSEY	2581 Calle de CURA
Josue Gallegos	2557 Calle de Parian
Aaron Zuñiga	220 Astar Dr.
Samantha Kling	220 Astar Dr.
ERIC MADRID	1395 Snow Rd
Marcy Toomey	Mesilla
MISAN KNEESEN	Mesilla
Jos Williams	2532 Calle del Norte
Alisa Robbie Tataya	Las Cruces
Yolande Lucero	2392 Calle de Parian, Mesilla
Trina Witter	Mesilla
PAUL Holzman	2240 Margaret St.
Brandi Montes	366 Station Road, La Mesa, NM
PAUL DARLEY	174 JJ LANE
Eddie Hernandez	1404 Wyoming Ave
Jesus Adams	1404 Wyoming Ave

Pat Taylor
PO Box 673
Mesilla, NM 88046

Mayor and Board of Trustees

Re: Taylor Historic Site

It appears that there is some misinformation on the status of the Taylor – Mesilla Historic property. We wanted to help the BOT better understand the history of the donation agreement. Referencing the New Mexico Historic Sites website on the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument page,

<https://nmhistoricsites.org/taylor-mesilla/history#:~:text=A%20Donation%20Agreement%20between%20the,was%20signed%20in%20September%202003.>

In the sixth chapter it reads,

“A Donation Agreement between the J. Paul and Mary Daniels Taylor and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs was signed in September 2003. In February 2004, under the authority of the Cultural Properties Act, Section 18-6-6 NMSA 1978, the property was set aside for public use and declared a state monument to be known as the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla State Monument. The official dedication of the Monument took place in September 2006. Under the terms of the Donation Agreement, J. Paul and Mary Taylor retained a life estate in the property. Mary Daniels-Taylor passed away in 2007. Mr. Taylor continues to live in the Home.”

The home has been owned by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) since 2003 with my parents having life time estate. The donation agreement was celebrated on the Mesilla Plaza shortly after that in 2006 attended by Town of Mesilla officials, Department of Cultural Affairs and the public. Within the first couple of years an “Advisory Committee” was set up to help with the planning aspect of the monument. Two of our family were represented on the committee along with the President of the Doña Ana Historic Society, NMSU Public History Department, Town of Mesilla Mayor and several others from the Department of Cultural Affairs. We met regularly for several years. With our father living an extra ordinarily long life it gave the DCA an opportunity to update several of the infrastructure needs of the property along with the accession process of many of the cultural pieces of art in the home.

Since the third month of our father’s passing, according to the gifting contract, the two rental stores of the Historic Site are now being managed by DCA. Nine months after his passing will mark the transition of the Taylor family finishing our obligations in cleaning out the home of our personal property and turning it over to the DCA.

There are several positive ways that the Town of Mesilla can be involved in the advocacy for the Historic Site. I urge you all along with the public to help in this transition period and later as a functioning Monument by joining the "Friends of the Taylor Family Monument". We also ask when the Town of Mesilla Mayor or their designee is asked to participate in the new Advisory Committee to take an active and positive role in helping guide and support the Historic Site's functions.

We want to stress that there is a bigger picture in the telling of our history that the Historic Site will bring to Mesilla. Not only will the Historic Site explain our regional history, but we'll have the opportunity to highlight Mesilla families in the interpretation as well. This is already in process by Historic Site staff and information is being gathered by Taylor family members. We will need help in telling Mesilla's story and we hope that you and the public can join us in that.

Sincerely,

The Children of J. Paul and Mary Taylor

Cc: Rhonda Rhonda R. Dass, PhD
Southern Region Site Manager
Taylor-Mesilla Historic Property
Fort Selden Historic Site



Catharine Walkinshaw <catharinewalkinshaw@gmail.com>

Public Comments for August 17 Board of Trustees Meeting

1 message

Catharine Walkinshaw <catharinewalkinshaw@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 17, 2023 at 11:25 AM

To: adriannam@mesillanm.gov, Stephanie Johnson-Burick <stephaniejb@mesillanm.gov>, Biviana Cadena <bivianac@mesillanm.gov>, veronicag@mesillanm.gov, Mesilla Town Clerk/Treasurer <clerktreasurer@mesillanm.gov>, "Nora L. Barraza" <mayor@mesillanm.gov>

Bcc: Trina Witter <trina.witter@gmail.com>, Andrea BRYAN <andrea97212@yahoo.com>

Dear Trustees Merrick, Burick-Johnson, Garcia, Cadena, and Mayor Barreza

Please include my following comments in the official minutes for the August 17, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting.

Thank you to those of you who made the effort to postpone this meeting to ensure this Board was in compliance with your own Resolution (NO. 2023-08) and the Open Meetings Act. At your special session on July 27, 2023, I commented that the agendas state (at the bottom) that agenda PACKETS are posted on the town's website but that no agenda PACKETS have been posted since May 8, 2023. After that meeting, instead of posting agenda PACKETS and giving us, the public, access to needed information so that we can be informed of our town's governing, city officials chose instead to just change the bottom of the agendas to state that only agendas are now posted. The town's government website where this information is posted even titles the section of the website "AGENDA PACKETS," but since May 8, 2023, has not posted any agenda PACKETS.

Thus we are unable to obtain detailed information about proposals and actions before official Board of Trustees meetings without going to the town and specifically requesting a copy of agenda packets. This is counter to the procedures used for years whereby this information was always posted on the website in advance of scheduled meetings. It also creates an undue workload on the already busy town staff to copy each packet for requesting residents and wastes unnecessary paper and associated paper/printing costs. Why the change to this established practice now? It appears that town officials and perhaps this Board are attempting to significantly limit what information is being made available to the public. This makes us feel disregarded as well as disrespected. I am asking that you re-consider and again post not only the agendas, but the agenda PACKETS as well prior to your public meetings.

Thank you,
Catharine Walkinshaw
575 932 8313

