

UNM Board of Regents'  
Historic Preservation Committee  
Meeting February 12, 2019  
Hodgin Hall 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

**Attendees:** Portia Vescio, Pat Hogan, Marilyn Strube, Durwood Ball, Al Sena, Audra Bellmore,  
Francisco Uviña

**Item 1: Approval of Agenda**

Al Sena motions to approve the agenda and Durwood Ball seconds. The agenda is approved by acclamation.

**Item 2: Review of January 2019 Minutes**

Portia Vescio moves to approve the minutes and Durwood Ball seconds. Minutes are approved by acclamation.

**Item 3: DH Lawrence Ranch Text Panels and Signage**

Audra Bellmore discussed her class and its interdisciplinary members. Photos from the archive were sourced for the panels. This is still in an early stage and she will provide more info later. Bellmore's handout includes images and some text panel info. She requested input from the committee. Durwood Ball asked what the course was called. Bellmore said it's called "Collections in Context: Taos." She described the previous class she offered in 2017 as focusing on the material landscape. The 2017 class was able to identify furnishings from Lawrence's time. The Lawrence cabin is the one that makes the interpretation period challenging, because of its posthumous influence during Frida Lawrence's time there. In general, the status is pretty good. Wire fencing has original decorative components.

Marilyn Strube asked what the ranch is for and if it is open to the public. Bellmore indicated that it is open to the public and Durwood Ball recounted how in grad school students used to rent the cabins there.

Francisco Uviña inquired where the numbers (acreage) are from and Bellmore indicated that they came from Sean Evan's plan. Uviña also encouraged the committee to consider how the site should be experienced and what needs attention first.

Audra Bellmore indicated the site is a cultural properties site and part of a National Register district. She indicated that Evans & AOS masterplan has a parking area and wayfinding (begin self-guided tour) strategy with interior and exterior text panels. Anybody can walk the site as long as all aspects are safe, which is part of the problem right now. Bellmore suggest that to begin a text panel with overall history of the site including natives, homesteaders, ranchers, Dodge Lujan & Lawrence/Frida, then UNM. Conversation turned to discussion of guest books and Portia Vescio indicated that they are in the CSWR archives.

Bellmore shared that a student practicum for the ranch brochure focused on people. There will also be one that will focus on buildings. Another need is a map at a wayfinding station and a timeline.

Durwood Ball suggested that a pamphlet on the landscape, the historic landscape as a pathway for Kiowa, traders, Taos Pueblos, the Spanish community would be helpful and it could consider how the Hispano or Nuevo Mexican used the land. Patrick Hogan added that this would tie in with Taos Pueblo politics. Uviña suggested that the information could be added to the timeline in two or three lines.

Al Sena added that the site itself was used as a pathway in some community annual events like the Taos Fair. Bellmore said that she's happy to broaden it out and to keep in mind that there needs to be a sign on the road, either a state register sign or a historic site marker. Uviña also mentioned an entrance sign.

Audra: happy to broaden it out. Also, keep in mind, a sign on the road. A state register sign.

Bellmore suggest that she and her student, Jennifer Eggleston, accompany Uviña and Sean Evans when they return to the ranch to state it out.

Bellmore added that the next phase would be to decide what to do with Freida's house. The lobby needs to be made safe and welcoming. Other potential tools could be sharing info with NMTrue, a touchscreen on site, and more seating. Uviña added that documentation will need to eventually be done for AutoCAD and 3d rendering with topography. Discussion turned to restrooms and budget requests or sources. Al Sena indicated that there is no development officer for the maintenance of buildings. He also suggested presenting a practical preservation effort vs. unattainable goals.

Uviña added that maintenance defers cost and that resources raised to stabilize the property could make it easier for the ranch's maintenance. Action is required and it can be done without stepping on toes. Bellmore indicated that the committee needs to work with the foundation. Al Sena said that there used to be some donation boxes on site, but that becomes problematic because there is a question of who might handle that money.

The discussion settled on starting small and envisioning a progression of improvements that will utilize students. Uviña will pursue a grant to hire students or fund a course.

#### **Item 4: Los Alamos Historical Society and National Park Service**

Bellmore shared that LAHS and NPS are interested in retrieving a cabin from the DH Lawrence Ranch. Uviña shared that the cabins were built & designed by Goodyear and they might be a funding source. Bellmore said that Harvey Kaplan from SHPO connected Audra to some people interested in the cabins. It's a good publicity moment.

Discussion turned to networking and researching for financial resources. Marilyn Strube said that the committee could help identify what's important, again begin proactive vs. reactive.

Bellmore stated that if they're going to carry on with not dealing with it, then we need to discuss how do we give this to an entity that will take care of it? Durwood Ball suggested that if it were ceded, it should be ceded to the state and another successful model is Ft. Burnwood, a site run by Southern Methodist University. Ft. Burnwood is from the 1850's when the US took Taos

during the Mexican-American war. Owned by SMU, it is used for student groups, close to Pot Creek archaeology site, lots of anthropology sites, it has more infrastructure than Lawrence, but worth checking it out. It is south of Taos on the right side of road. The other thing that needs to be done is to craft a report or memo discussing the historical and cultural significance of the site, but also articulate the relationship to UNM—that becomes the mission statement.

Al Sena said that there's already a platform for a stepping point from and Bellmore added that the National Register nomination is the best document to utilize. Durwood Ball indicated that this is an issue to reach out to Rio Arriba for support. Sena added that the links are very clear and include Los Alamos, the Harwood Museum, and the ranch all looped together as a significant characteristic of northern New Mexico.

Pat Hogan said that they are dealing with 7 acres as the historic property and Ball added that the whole 160-acre site is an historic landscape issue. Preservation could expand from the 7 acres to the whole site. Sena said that a constant struggle is sustaining what we have. The caretakers have been part of the ranch for decades. Still, Bellmore added, the site needs more professionalism and museum studies should be invited for their expertise, stabilization and management of the site.

Pat Hogan also mentioned the issue of protocol for signage at UNM's institutional level.

Meeting adjourns at 12:35 pm