



Grupo Pro Sayulita Meeting

12 to 1:30 P.M, Thursday, March 4, 2010

Rear, Blue Iguana Restaurant

Making Sayulita a better place for everyone to live and visit.

Secretary's Approval of Minutes: Moved Egle Schnyder, Seconded Janet Anderson, Carried.

President's report-by Eric Rudd

As president, I've been in office almost 2 months, and I wanted to give an update. It feels like I'm in my mid-term.

We have been through the election of officers for this year and then we will have the election legally done on paper and submitted to the government. The election paperwork has been done by attorney Daniel Amador, and is ready for signatures. We'll soon be using that as a basis to get our other filings current, including Treasurer Cheryl Vaughan's annual financial reports. In addition to new officers for 2010, the main change is that the voting membership is doubling in size, and this means that most of the active volunteers will now have a legal voice as to who the future directors and officers will be.

One of the first tasks was to prioritize efforts; the Fiesta is the number one fundraiser, so that was put on an immediate action plan with Leslie and Janet co-chairing.

We have updated the web site through the help of Christopher Bruno. That is now current and the minutes of all the meetings are being posted weekly.

GPS has started a new supporting membership plan and set up donation categories. Joining is now possible via the website, using credit card or PayPal. The first year, the goal is to have everyone who buys Fiesta tickets become supporting members, either as an individual or as a business. The idea was that if we can show 300 supporting members, we'll be in better position to apply for grants and large donations. In addition, it is hoped that next year, members will renew their memberships online (without having to use so much GPS volunteer time) and that will be additional income for our programs.

Our donation categories have made it easier and clearer how people can donate. Just yesterday, we received a \$1,000 US donation to GPS in our highest donor category. We want to recognize all the supporting members and donors in the Fiesta program and on our web site.

For example, letters went out via email to past supporters and to casa owners who show a GPS green handprint to update and renew their support. We hope that this program will bring steady income in the years to come.

Meanwhile, plaza sales of books, CD, calendars and tickets have continued and that helps fund various programs and activities.

Thursday meetings have continued and that has been a good source of discussion and information, camaraderie, and good lunches.

I won't summarize all the efforts of the committees and all the work they are doing in education, streets and traffic, recycling, beach preservation and safety, medical response and security and helping organizations like Sayulita Verde and the Animal Clinic, but everyone has their plates full.

One very large issue to deal with is that a core group of people are getting tired out. After two years, several have indicated that enough is enough (or I can see that in their eyes; maybe it's just the final push for the Fiesta fundraiser but we are doing too much work). I promised a reduced role and so far, I've failed in that. However, it might be that we need to reduce what we take on if more people don't sign up for active roles in various committees as well as being potential officers next year.

Generally, we need to reduce the work of people who are doing too much. That's going to happen because of resignations if we don't find another way.

As an Executive Board, we still need to do overall budget planning, as well as create a reserve fund. The officers are meeting weekly so this is part of the agenda for those meetings.

I'm just beginning to meet with town officials in hopes of establishing better communications and using joint efforts to solve some of the town's issues.

I still keep in mind some dream projects- many of which we discussed and wrote about a few weeks ago. It is impossible for GPS to be the substitute for the government, but there are obvious infrastructure gaps that no one except GPS seems to be addressing. In short, we need a cleaner town, doing recycling which will always need funds, work until we have lifeguards on the beach, continue to have an AED system and police response with better communications and mapping, and a continuation of the after-school English programs as we help with their infrastructure issues. Can we someday have parking lots with limited traffic in the downtown? Or our schools being accept into Mexico's magnet/model program? Or a library for the children? Or a better park and play area for children? Or our very own street-sweeper truck?

The other overall observation is that none of us expected to get into what we regard as basic governmental infrastructure needs, trash, cleaning streets, basic buildings for schools, and so forth. Yet it's hard to ignore the lack of services. This is perhaps the single aspect that is wearing us down but also giving us challenges. We just can't promise that we can do it all.

We need to put all our efforts into making this the best Fiesta ever- and that means everyone urging their friends to come. We had a capacity crowd last year and there's every reason to believe that we'll have at least as many this year, but..... let's be sure and ask our friends.

Treasurer's Report (Cheryl)

Everyone is asked to turn ticket money into Cheryl. There are quite a number of tickets being bought now online-the system is working!

Committee Updates:

Beach Safety (Roberto Villavicencio Aranzolo) Roberto worked last year in training the volunteer lifeguards here in Sayulita. The program folded after those volunteers left for the season but the supplies are still with us. He wants to come back to Sayulita with a teen and youngster training program, signage and lifeguard training in time for the next surge of visitors over Semana Santa. He is looking for 2 things-**SECURE STORAGE FOR THE EQUIPMENT NEAR THE BEACH, AND A PLACE TO STAY WHILE HE IS HERE VOLUNTEERING ON THE WEEKENDS.** If this mailing list can help out with either of these 2 things it would be greatly appreciated. Call him at 322-158-9628.

Fiesta Fundraiser (Leslie/Janet)

Auctions items are now set. Thank you but we can't take any more donations at this time as we must prep all the paperwork to go with them. Sell tickets, buy tickets is the call now-let's sell out! See this week's El Sayulero for information on the Fiesta. Set up should be 11:00 Tues. 9th March at the palapa for those interested in helping out. Bring your bucket of supplies-stapler, zipties, cleaning rags, scissors, glue, rope, you know, a bag of tricks!

Safety and Medical Response (Mike)

The police station is all but ready to go-still looking for a serviceable desk.

ATTENTION: THE DEDICATED CELL PHONE NUMBER TO CONTACT THE POLICE HERE IN TOWN WILL NOW BE 322-104-8540

This phone is passed off after each of Sr. Trujillo and Sr. Andrade's 24 hour shift.

If you are still interested in being part of the Block Watch Program please contact Mike Beck. Robberies are still happening and if the captains get the message out in their neighbourhoods it is much more likely that we will be able to assist the police in their efforts to catch the perpetrators. mikebeck@msn.com

The AED is in place and look for announcements about the end of the month training program for the use of the machine and CPR training.

Trash and Recycling (Suzanne)

It is agreed that the recycling program in Sayulita is important on a moral and environmental basis. Presently the recycling program needs an infusion of money to keep it current. Right now the Executive needs to come up with a decision on funding for this program. We need to decide whether we want to fund just a worker and rely on volunteer coordination or find the funds to hire a coordinator to handle education, grant funding, operations overseeing, sales and the myriad of details that this involves.

Traffic and Streets (Jeff)

The letters to go out to people for when their trash is to be picked up are ready but they will be supplemented by signage in each area to inform people of when their pickup days are. It remains to be seen if GIRRSA is keeping its commitment to the town.

Beach Preservation (Suzanne)

Jose Luis sent his appreciation for all the help with the beach cleanup day on Feb. 27. We persevered through the tsunami warning and with the help of the Ocean Conservancy program and the workers from the municipality (who are coming weekly) managed to do a great job. Many thanks too for the support of Punta Sayulita for their donations and for lunch. Great work by the little truck crew too!

Animal Clinic (Suzanne)

Sayulita Animals is having a vet come one day a week-possibly Fridays for a half day clinic for spay and neutering. Donations to assist street animals and those that can't afford the work on their pets but want to do the right thing are always appreciated. REMEMBER THAT EVERY FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH , THE CLINIC HAS A FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE IN THE PLAZA. DONATE ITEMS THERE OR AT THE CLINIC. If you would like to help, contact sayulitanimals@hotmail.com

Next meeting, The Blue Iguana Restaurant, noon-1:30 PM, March 18 –the week AFTER OUR FIESTA!!