

Notes/Minutes from Tourism Implementation Task Force

Tourism Implementation Task Force Meeting
August 7, 2019 at Noon
Room 330, Municipal Building
1000 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, NM 87544

Call to Order

New County Project:

- County Council voted and approved to purchase WAC Dormitory at 1725 17th St. for \$600k. The building is approximately 5,000 square feet and consists of a common area and 20 bedrooms.
- \$1.7-\$2m to renovate and bring up to code
- This is one of the last potential acquisitions of Manhattan Project era property in the community and presents an opportunity to incorporate it into the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.
- Church members will continue to operate in the building until March 2020. There will be no additional costs to the church members, but they will cover the utilities during that period. All their personal property will be removed but everything else belonging to the building will remain.
- During public comment, Los Alamos Historical Society Executive Director Elizabeth Martineau said,
“We have a long, successful partnership with the County to preserve and protect and communicate the history of Los Alamos and this partnership allows us to care for and interpret historic properties. We’ve come together to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park that boosts tourism in our town and we feel our community has a important story tell and this building is an important part that story.” She added, “It was built during the Manhattan Project ... we feel the former WAC dorm gives us a look back at a time that was crucial to our country and a glimpse at the way of life that was lived by young women who came to Los Alamos during WWII. These young women played an important part in the Manhattan Project and in doing so they played a part in ending the war. We feel that this is an opportunity that we really should not miss...”



FY20 Projects

- Visitor center displays and website in progress
- Wayfinding
 - \$ for 1st phase will be for kiosks rather than the vehicular signs due to construction currently in progress on Trinity
 - To create bid packet with installation estimated for Spring 2020
- To reengage with LANL on Security checkpoint signage in an effort to encourage tourists to proceed through the checkpoints rather than get nervous and turn around.
- Historical Society received money from the Park Service for Fuller Lodge interpretive plan.

- There was an introduction of land for sale by the County to the public during their August 6th Council meeting for ~3 acres at 20th street.
 - On August 27th, Council will solicit public input on the property
 - Initial thoughts are for an 86 room extended stay hotel (i.e. StayBridge by Marriott) with conference space to accommodate ~250 people.

Tourism Manager

- There was discussion on how the future tourism operational structure should be. Task force members were asked to create list of requirements (what we would want he/she to do) for the Tourism Manager position.

Adjourn Meeting