

HOPi TOURISM COHORT
Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation
MEETING NOTES
Thursday, February 24, 2022

2nd & 4th Thursday at 3 PM MST

1. Call to Order – Lahoma Davidson

Lahoma Davidson called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm MST.

2. Self-introductions

Attendees included LaMon Begay, Alan Chavez, Lahoma Davidson, Andrew Gashwazra, Chuck Howe, Wendi Lewis, Colleen Lucero, Berni Navakuku, James Surveyor, and Brian Cole.

3. Non-profit Organization Formation/Bylaws

It was noted that the application process to be certified by the IRS as a non-profit corporation has yet to begin. There was unanimous consent for this process to proceed. Lahoma Davidson asked about the filing fee of approximately \$250. There was unanimous consent that the HTTTF fund be utilized to cover the fees. Davidson indicated she would begin the process and report back at the next meeting.

4. Hopi Tourism Travel and Training Fund

Cole noted that the account balance for the HTTTF \$4,816.71. Berni Navakuku said that there is an online tourism training available through San Diego State University (SDSU). This is an Aianta-promoted event of two sessions costing approximately \$500. Berni Navakuku motioned that up to eight \$500 scholarships be made available to Hopi tourism interests (especially Hopi Tourism Association Board Members). Andrew Gashwazra seconded the motion. There was unanimous consent in favor of the motion. Brian Cole indicated that he, Bailey, and Lahoma would “get the word out” on this training opportunity. NOTE: After the meeting it was determined that the cost of each session is \$2,500, not \$500. It was agreed not to distribute information about this training opportunity.

5. Hopi Tourism Facilities Planning

Brian Cole set the stage for the facilities planning objective of this planning effort. Cole expressed that much of the work of Building Communities has been with the non-traditional villages (Moenkopi and YPC) where many of the development challenges and restrictions associated with traditional villages to not exist.

Alan Chavez stated that it does take additional time to communicate with traditional leadership. He is finding that there is support by traditional leadership at First Mesa in support of tourism and the development of a tourism center.

Chuck Howe reported that the biggest unknown is the differences between the villages. Howe indicated that he is collecting information in order to develop his facilities report. Colleen Lucero stated that one of the requirements through the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office (HCPO) is the completion of archeological surveys. She also noted the role of the Cultural Resources Advisory Test Team. Lucero also expressed the importance of Ordinance 55.

Andrew Gashwazra stated that the process to develop tourism facilities depends on where they are located. There is the Tribal process and the Village process.

6. Hopi Tourism Association Tourism Website

Although the Zoom connection with Wendi Lewis was somewhat cryptic, it was understood by the group that Wendi Lewis has made an offer to donate her time and talent for the formation of the Hopi Tourism Association website. Lewis indicated that she would like to know how the \$4,000 that was set aside by Building Communities could be reallocated to the project. Cole indicated he would research this and get back to the group on March 17.

LaMon Begay emphasized that he was in support of funding going to local community members for website development.

7. Hopi Tourism Cohort Post-Covid Recovery Plan/Artisans Survey

No report.

8. Submitting an RBDG Grant Application

Brian Cole told everyone that the deadline for the RBDG program is Monday, February 28. LaMon Begay requested a copy of the application materials. Brian Cole indicated that they would be emailed to him.

9. Other Business

Berni Navakuku noted that Marilyn Fredericks is now a member of the Hopi Tribal Council and our regular meeting times frequently conflict with the Hopi tribal Council meeting times. Navakuku recommended that we find a different regular date/time for such meetings. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 3 pm MST.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hopi Tourism Cohort will take place on March 17, at 3 pm MST.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm MST.