

HOPi TOURISM COHORT
Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation
MEETING NOTES
Thursday, April 28, 2022

2nd & 4th Thursday at 3 PM MST

1. Call to Order – Lahoma Davidson

The meeting was called to order by Brian Cole at 3:14 pm MST.

2. Self-introductions

Attendees included Lahoma Davidson, Vern Hongoeva, Iva Honyestewa, Chuck Howe, Romalita Laban, Wendi Lewis, Colleen Lucero, Berni Navakuku, Fred Shupla, Mark Talayumptewa and Brian Cole

3. Non-profit Organization Formation/Bylaws

Iva Honyestewa reported that Marilyn Fredricks is taking the lead on the establishment of the Hopi Tourism Association (HTA) bank account. She is coordinating with a credit union in Flagstaff. She may be missing some documentation in order to establish that account.

There was a discussion on whether or not the Bylaws needed to be signed. It was noted that the HTA has not had its first official meeting.

With respect to an in-person retreat, the discussion focused on either May 9 or May 10. Brian Cole asked for clarification on who the HTA wanted at the in-person retreat. At a minimum it would include the three board members, Berni Navakuku and Brian Cole. Wendi Lewis would reach out to Marilyn Fredericks to see about her availability on either May 9 or May 10.

4. Hopi Tourism Travel and Training Fund

Brian Cole reported that the current fund account remains unchanged at \$4,816.71.

5. Hopi Tourism Facilities Planning

Chuck Howe indicated that he did not have much to report. Brian Cole invited Fred Shupla to provide his perspectives. Shupla stressed that any transaction with villages with respect to land requires people to be upfront with their intentions and objectives. Shupla noted that siting modulars is much easier than any construction that would disturb the ground. Accessing potable water is a big challenge at many sites. He made reference to the current potable water challenges impacting the Hopi Cultural Center. He also made reference to the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP) being advanced by the Hopi Utilities Corporation. The HAMP project should provide better water accessibility for many locations.

Shupla continued that with the tribe budget being cut, villages will eventually be receiving less money from the tribe. Villages may look to innovated ways to generate fees and income through leasing land back to the tribe. This may prove to be an opportunity.

Berni Navakuku referenced the Tawaovi project. Historically, tourism development facilities have been envisioned at Tawaovi. Wendi Lewis made reference to a letter that was advanced

by nine Hopi non-profit corporations related to space for non-profits throughout Hopi including, possibly, Tawaovi.

Berni Navakuku recommended that Chuck Howe review the Hopi CEDS documents. Navakuku also recommended that Chuck Howe make connection with the Arizona Office of Tourism (Dawn Melvin).

Brian Cole then noted the planning for the Hopivewat Learning Center. He called upon Colleen Lucero to provide an update that could be shared with Chuck. Lucero indicated that the Hopivewat learning Center has recently secured a 10 acre special land use agreement with the Village of Shungopavi. They intend to utilize 5.6 acres of that land for the development of the Hopivewat Learning Center. She noted that significant coordination is underway with the Hopi Real Estate Office. She recommended that Chuck Howe be in touch with the Hopi Real Estate Office for information on the siting process (Micah Loma'omvaya, Reality Officer for the Hopi Tribe). He may also want to be in touch with Michael Lomayaktewa related to transportation.

6. Hopi Tourism Association Website

Wendi Lewis reported that she has yet to initiate work on the website. The bank account needs to get established and then she needs to have available funding to secure the URL.

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

No report.

8. Other Business

Berni Navakuku asked if the agenda could be notated to show which of the agenda items relate directly to the implementation of the MDC grant.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Hopi Tourism Cohort will take place on May 12 at 3 pm MST. Brian Cole noted that he would probably be late to that meeting given his air travel on that day.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 pm MST.