



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

January 27, 2021

8am – 10:30am

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met via virtual conference on January 27, 2021. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Cathey Finlon, Marco Abarca, Luis Benitez, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Donna Lynne, Robert Musgraves, Ellen Roberts, Stephen Sturm, Mary Sullivan, Penfield Tate III, and Ann Alexander Walker.

Also in attendance: Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Chris Bowles, Margaret Conable, Jason Hanson, Shannon Joern, Inta Morris, Cathy Rosset, Lynne Winchell and Jeannie Vanderburg, Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:02am. She thanked everyone for their support in her leadership role and commented that she was following in the footsteps of successors Finlon, Walker, and Musgraves. She also thanked Vanderburg for her work with the legislature and extended a welcome to Joern. Tate motioned to approve the November 18, 2020 minutes; Sturm 2nd; motion passed.

Executive Director Report - Turner echoed Ward’s comments. He reported that UMB notified us that they passed our application onto the SBA. He also noted that the funding pots we are able to tap into are not the long-term solution and that we need to have funds in place for the certificate of participation. The architecture exhibit funding is getting close to the budget goal. We opened a new exhibit called Aprons and will soon have a Denver version of Borderlands.

State and National Register - Walker reported actions on two committees that met on Jan. 7. Both meetings prompted actions from the HC Board which requires a motion and vote on specific items.

- **Rifle Lodge** has been recommended for state register designation. This facility plays a significant role in the community. Walker motioned to approve; Carpenter Dea 2nd; motion passed.

Walker also touched on the national register designations.

State Historic Fund - Browns Canyon National Monument Ethnographic Study and Internship

- Walker stated that this grant initially had a low score, but with staff assistance, there they reapplied last fall. The recent grant rounds were challenging due to the lack of funds. Those funded were prioritized by urgency (i.e., roof falling down). A grant was returned which allowed the committee to apply funds to this application for Ethnographic studies. The ACHP recommends the HC Board approve the request to fund. Abarca commented that we have to be careful about times when applicants disagree with the decisions made by the board. Sullivan motioned to approve, Roberts 2nd; motion passed. Musgraves and Abarca would like to make it

clear that we are doing this because funding became available, rather than due to the applicant vocalizing their dissatisfaction.

Legislative Report - Vanderburg gave an update on the legislative process. The JBC hearing went well. There was a good Q & A session. She has a meeting with our budget analyst in OSPB. The plan is to have this presented as a JBC bill. She also noted that figure setting is supposed to be March 10th but wouldn't be surprised if this gets pushed back. Additionally, we had the SMART act hearing and the Education Committee had great appreciation for HC efforts.

Financial Report - Winchell noted some slight modifications to the activities which were approved by the finance committee. The report is now sectioned off into History Colorado, Community Museums and State Historic Fund revenue and expenditures with overall History Colorado on the bottom to show specific expenditures/revenues for each program. The previous format created an inaccuracy because the operating funds were commingled. There are no changes to the FY 2021-22 budget, we utilized projections and will review after the 2nd quarter. Additionally, we will look at the full year forecast next week which ties into building the FY 21-22 budget. At this point, we have a \$200K surplus and will continue to monitor.

Audit update - while not official, the auditor's cleared our findings. Accounting staff have established policies and procedures to avoid this situation in the future. They feel our process in place but want to confirm that we keep it in place. Winchell reviewed important dates for FY 21-22. March 17 is the next finance committee meeting. The committee will receive materials on March 10 before the meeting on the 17th. We also added a placeholder in June for the HC board if May 26 doesn't allow adopting the budget at that time.

Philanthropy Report - Joern gave an update on membership activity. Membership and Philanthropy revenue raising activity is tracked through Raiser's Edge database. The team has been more nimble and looked for opportunities to secure extra, new funding which is reflected in the report. The total committed line represents membership and donation grant contributed revenue. There is \$2.7M committed for this FY. We have raised \$1M more by the end of 2020 compared to 2019. We are adding more virtual opportunities for members, which is going well. We have been focused on the Building Denver funding goal and remain confident we will reach this goal. Joern also stated that HC doesn't have a formal process for asking board members to contribute and we don't have expectations for any specific donation level. However, it's helpful if we can say we have a 100% giving board no matter the amount. Sturm commented that it is great to see that membership levels have not dropped off and asked that Joern send membership and donation info to the board. Ward fully supports Joern's request that the board consider a meaningful gift.

Collections Management Plan - Hanson introduced himself and gave an overview on how we manage our collections. The plan is updated every 10 years and today we are seeking board approval of the policy. DeBie touched on sections within the policy that include: collection stewardship, the physical caring of items, databases, files, active collecting and many other things. We push collections access through research exhibitions, publications and public programs. We want collections to be relevant to make history matter. Nelson stepped through the section highlights on the changes or updates to the collection policy. Turner noted that having board approval on our Collection Management Plan ensures our AMA accreditation. The Collections plan explains what we collect and why. Nelson noted that the core things changed in the plan is how the department is described but that the bulk is much the same. Finlon noted that the board doesn't have a collection committee which demonstrates the role the board

must have in terms of backing and endorsement; we are missing a committee to include outside representatives. This could allow us to educate the board and others about the challenges we have with storing and managing the collection. Ward recommends approval with future discussion about seating a committee. Benitez motioned to approve; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

Program Update - This was moved to the March board meeting. (Ward noted that this update was about the strategic plan, pivot plan and update on where we are and anything we learned to remain successful.)

Executive Session - HR Issue - The board went into executive session at 9:47am to discuss an HR issue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47am