



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

March 24, 2021

8am – 10:30am

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met via virtual conference on March 24, 2021. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Cathey Finlon, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Donna Lynne, Robert Musgraves, Stephen Sturm, Mary Sullivan, Penfield Tate III, Ann Alexander Walker, Ellen Roberts and Alan Salazar.

Also in attendance: Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Chris Bowles, Margaret Conable, Jason Hanson, Shannon Joern, Luis Colón, Cathy Stroh, Patrick Warwick-Diaz, Brad Buchanan and Jeannie Vanderburg, Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:02am. She asked for a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes. Sullivan motioned to approve the January 27 minutes; Tate 2nd; motion passed.

Legislative Report - Vanderburg gave an update on the legislative process. She reported that this is the sixth week of meetings and it feels like the end of April because it is very busy at the capitol. The budget picture was interesting; last year we were looking at a \$3.4B general fund shortfall which meant cutting the budget by 25%. Fortunately, the JBC was conservative in budgeting and the fact that revenues came in higher than anticipated resulted in more money being available. Additionally, the JBC conducted figure setting for Higher Ed/History Colorado and is proposing full COP coverage with a commitment for the next few years. In 2026 the JBC will review and reassess this commitment. Ward and the board thanked Vanderburg for her work. Ward asked if anybody followed up with Treasurer Young? Turner indicated that he will call him. Dea has a call with McCluskie and will thank her for her help. Vanderburg also reported that she was asked to withdraw the legislative proposal for a procurement exemption.

Walker reported that last May the board agreed to contract with Natural Resources in DC to try to get federal money in Covid recovery bills. That legislation specifies that funds are for state agencies and can be transferred to private non profits. The board acknowledged appreciation and gratitude to Congressmen Joe Neguse and Jason Crowe, and Finlon, Walker and Turner for their work on this legislation.

Executive Director Report - Turner thanked the staff, finance committee, Vanderburg, and the board for their diligent efforts which placed us in a better financial position. The budget that we are presenting for approval has a \$1M surplus; we have a \$75K grant which will be used for Hands on History; we have close to \$1M in grants to develop a statewide history education curriculum; and we are progressing on fundraising for the Building Denver initiative (we have \$460K, just \$20K shy of funds).

KKK ledgers - Turner also noted that we are digitizing the KKK ledgers and they will be available as a searchable transcript online. Ward would like to share how the community advisory committee assisted us to put context on this topic which tells stories about resilience and resistance and power. Turner stated that we will host lectures and programs around this. Dea asked if we have an outlet for communities to share their feedback and give input; DiPrince replied we will frame that so they can share input and comments on our website. Tate thinks this is important and by having it available in a different venue, History Colorado is also enabling the community to comment.

National Western Complex Report - Buchanan, CEO of Ntl Western Center Authority gave a report on the new 258 acre campus and programs. The facilities will be city owned; and he presented a powerpoint stating the NWC vision and mission. The board thanked Buchanan for his report, noting that the complex looks amazing.

Program Update - DiPrince presented a summary of the activities and future plans for HC. She noted that we've adapted and responded to the changing market, in spite of limitations and sought out opportunities. Ward commented on a great presentation with a forward focus. Dea was pleased with the online shopping feature. Sturm asked about the curriculum - specifically, how wide is the scope/project (fee based or free)? DiPrince noted that it is centered around 4th grade but we are not limiting it to only 4th. We have heard from many school districts that they are interested in this program. We are seeking to develop a subscription model that is affordable, can provide a steady revenue stream and is a dynamic, living curriculum unlike the way textbooks can become dated. Staff will come back at the next Board meeting with suggestions for how to make strategic investments and plan for the future. Finlon sees the need to link urban/rural divides. Sturm asked if a full time Marketing position would be filled? Turner replied that DiPrince has been performing that job and we are now seeking funding approval to hire for this position.

Ward asked to amend the agenda to include a vote to add Sturm as vice chair of the finance committee. Musgraves moved to approve Sturm as vice chair of the finance committee; Lynne 2nd, motion carried.

Financial Report - Turner introduced Colón the new Chief Administrative Officer. Colón provided the financial report and thanked Bellamy for her work. Bellamy touched on period 7 actuals - noting that while the earned revenue is down, the other revenue is only down 2%. The total revenue is only 10% less than budgeted. We have a surplus of \$1M; we also have a personal expense increase to offset the PERA increase without salary increases; and a request to fully fund capital construction/controlled maintenance from \$100K to \$310K. Musgraves would like a refined version presented to the board at the May meeting. Finlon agreed with Musgraves to review and approve the budget at the May meeting. Bellamy did request approving \$217K to backfill personal service expenses. Dea supports; Ward asked for a motion to approve \$217K backfill personal service expenses. Dea motioned to approve \$217K personal services expenses backfill; Roberts 2nd; motion passed. Ward noted that at the May board meeting the budget allocations will be updated and re-presented for approval.

Due to time expiring, Ward thanked Walker for agreeing to table her report until the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am