



History Colorado Board of Directors
May 27, 2020 at 8am
Notes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met via virtual conference on May 27, 2020. Present were directors: Cathey Finlon, Marco Abarca, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Donna Lynne, Robert Musgraves, Ellen Roberts, Stephen Sturm, Ann Alexander Walker and Tamra Ward. Also in attendance: Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Inta Morris, Cathy Rosset, Jeannie Vanderburg, and Lynne Winchell. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Finlon called the meeting to order at 8:02am. Brown conducted a verbal roll call, and confirmed a quorum. Ward moved to approve the March 18, 2020 minutes; Walker 2nd; motion passed.

Finlon commented that the board and leadership team have done a good job managing operations in spite of this pandemic. We have laid out a business plan which recognizes that we have a long road of dealing with Certificate of Participation (COP). The board has been diligent in protecting this organization by offering guidance, insight and resources to the leadership.

Board Update - Ward reported that Penfield Tate III, Luis Benitez and Mary Sullivan were recommended to the Governor’s Boards and Commissions for appointment. In addition, Abarca has agreed to continue to serve to allow for continuity and we have recommended that he be reappointed. We are waiting to hear back from Boards and Commissions. Ward noted that if these individuals are appointed by the Governor, they can serve on the board and be confirmed at a later date. She will continue to monitor this and keep the board posted.

State Register - Walker requested board approval for two properties recommended for State Register designation, the Smith-Eslick Cottage Camp located in Grand Lake, Grand County and the 11th Ave Hotel located in Denver, Denver County. Abarca moved to approve, Dea 2nd, motion passed. Walker shared that there are six properties recommended for the National Register. No action is necessary from the board for the National Register.

Executive Director Report - Turner shared that in spite of the virus, we are able to pivot and offer our lectures online. At this time, the visitation numbers are not known. We are receiving guidance on re-opening from the state, and it seems likely to be mid-June.

Business Plan Presentation - DiPrince reported that the staff has forged ahead with hope and possibility. We have elevated to a digital platform/new technology to meet our audience in their homes. She noted that we are not departing from our strategic plan. Our first wildly important goal remains *Engage 1 Million People Annually by 2025*. Our business opportunities include the foundation of our strategic plan. Specifically, we have longed to create a Colorado history curriculum for our students throughout the state, and this crisis has brought this to the forefront. School districts could adopt this programming to help meet education needs and help our students develop a passion for Colorado and our shared history. We are leaning on digital communication in a much bigger and more nimble fashion. We know there will be a reduction in Philanthropy; and guest services operations will be different due to managing visitors with more care going forward. Overall, we have a cadence of accountability in the budget. Ward appreciates how thoughtful the team has been to make the most out of this challenge.

Budget - Winchell provided a high level budget review of the origins of our funds and our expenses. HC received a \$2.2M SBA paycheck protection plan and applied for \$184K in between fiscal year 20-21. HC is requesting permission to keep the fund balance levels at \$2.5M on an annual basis, rolling forward any surplus remaining at the end of each fiscal year.

Operating expenses - July 1st finance staff will meet with all division managers that manage a budget to analyze revenues and expenses and ensure that positions stay on track. Finlon stated that we are missing the funding. Winchell will build and expand to a more in depth P&L. Turner asked if the board is comfortable with this in concept. The next steps would be to flush out a comprehensive budget over the next few weeks with the finance committee and present to the board. Finlon thinks this is a good plan with what we know at this point. She wants to see more commitment to the business plan; Donna Lynne motioned to approve in concept, Ward 2nd; motion passed.

Education Update - Legg presented an update on what the Education department is working on. The Hands on History has been launched digitally in a direct response to families. We have had over 2,000 participants over the last 2 months and some of that outreach includes other states. History Colorado was one of the first to launch this plan. Other culturals have launched digital offerings. We plan to continue into summer and the fall. Additionally, our virtual field trips are fee based and have received funds for those.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30am