



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

March 23, 2022

8am-10:30am

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) ("HC") met in person and via virtual conference Wednesday, March 23, 2022. Present were directors: Tamra Ward, Ellen Roberts, Cathey Finlon, Donna Lynne, Robert Musgraves, Mary Sullivan, Penfield Tate III, Rich Benenson, and Carlos Martinez.

HC Staff in attendance: Dawn DiPrince, Luis Colón, Patrick Eidman, Jason Hanson, Shannon Joern, Jordan Parry, and Joe Zhou. Others in attendance: Cathy Stroh, Patrick Warwick Diaz, Mary Kisseberth, Stewart Olive and Christine Staberg. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Ward called the meeting to order at 8:02am. DiPince read the land acknowledgement. Ward extended congratulations to reappointed board members. She touched on the activity taking place during this legislative session around our budget.

Minutes - Ward noted that there were a few minor edits to the January minutes to provide more clarity. She asked for a motion to approve the January 26, 2022 board minutes. Tate motioned to approve, Sullivan seconded, motion carried.

Legislative Report - Staberg reported that it's been a busy legislative session and appreciates the team being nimble to meet short deadlines. The budget process is nearing completion and the HC request on reorganization and full-time employee realignment has been approved and the Grant Humphreys capital funding request was denied.

HB 1400, passed in 2020 at History Colorado's urging, provided a mechanism to allow for a fairer recovery among limited gaming tax revenue beneficiaries following the 2020 COVID pandemic downturn. However, before the provisions of HB 1400 were due to expire, the voters passed Amendment 77 allowing the gaming cities to further expand limited gaming. All of the proceeds of that expansion were to go exclusively to the State's Community Colleges. There was concern that the recovery provisions of HB 1400 might effectively allow entities other than the Community Colleges to benefit from the Amendment 77 expansion, contrary to voter intent. Consequently, there was a push from the State to modify the timing of HB 1400 to prevent any conflict with Amendment 77. OSPB is taking the lead on the solution with JBC support. Additionally, HC was asked to put a budget together for this one-time funding. Musgraves recognizes the process is moving quickly and the board needs to give staff approval to

determine how to spend the funds in the best interest of HC. DiPrince commented that HC plans to budget around revenue-generating investments that could help HC become more of a revenue generating sustainable entity. Our investments mirror our strategic plan; examples include: franchising hands on history throughout the state; licensing and selling one of our exhibits; Philanthropy investment; bringing in a large blockbuster exhibit; and creating an affiliates program to mirror the Smithsonian affiliate program whereby we partner with statewide history museums with potential revenue potential.

She also noted that the legislature has requested to display the Constitution in the capitol. HC would like to help determine the best way to display it. Benenson has been to other museums and noted that replicas are displayed with notation on where the original is stored. He thinks a replica works well and might be an easy way to accommodate the request.

Hearing Committee for Tax Appeals Status Update - Tate provided an update on the hearing committee tax appeal status. Specifically, the committee will meet again to finalize its written recommendation to the board at an upcoming meeting. No questions or comments were made at this time. Tate did clarify that the committee has announced its recommended decision to the board which is to sustain the SHPO decision, but it needs to provide written recommendation so the board can deliberate and make a decision.

AHPC Task Force - Ward thanked board members for participating in the AHPC task force. There has been an initial meeting to walk through the program and objectives. The task force is working with staff to create a survey that will help to identify what is working and where we might have deficiencies and how we can address those to strengthen the program/process. The hope is to develop a plan by the end of June. Ward remarked that the program is best in class and we want to ensure it remains as such.

Executive Director Report - Dawn DiPrince:

Facilities Updates - Our third party vendor KM/SSA has provided event/catering and cafe services. Their contract term ended and we issued an RFP updated with all of our needs. We have a letter of intent to award with a local company and we anticipate announcing this in the next few weeks. They will provide sales of rentals, cafe and catering. HC will manage/oversee the gift shop. The new vendor will also service Grant Humphreys catering which will allow us to retain those revenues.

Additionally, DiPrince reported that the Governor approached HC about taking over the Hassan mansion in Pueblo. HC put a proposal together which requests \$400K operating funds plus \$1M for facility improvement and repairs. Tate questions if \$1M is enough and could we request a waiver for the 15 year ask. Sullivan noted the building is not historic and questions if HC is the best fit. Tate would like to negotiate a proposal that might be a better fit for the property. Finlon commented that endowments should be large, this is a substantial obligation if we don't have the large endowment. Ward wonders about CSU business school since the building is named after the family. Overall, the board supports exploring other options for the building.

Hart Awards - DiPrince shared that the rescheduled Hart awards will be held at HC on April 19. This year, the HC Board will present an award recognizing the Green Book study. There will be

awards for other special preservation projects. This is a great opportunity to connect with those regional legislators and she encouraged the board to attend if possible.

Colorado! Membership - Joern touched on *Colorado!* membership intent which offers unique benefits and opportunities in a small and personal environment. However, due to Covid, it had been sidelined, but we are ready to amp it up again. Our recent collaboration with the Denver Art Museum collection/textile team and our collection/textile team was well received and we received lots of positive feedback on this event. The next event is on May 12 and will be a private tour of Watkins stained glass. Joern welcomes any creative ideas for this program going forward. The goal is to have a quarterly event with a good mix of experiences.

State Historians Council - Hanson gave an overview of the State Historian Council and noted that we have two seats being vacated by Tom Noel and Duane Vandebusch. There are two nominations to fill these seats on the State Historian's Council: Claire Garcia and Susan Schulten. The operating procedures, which have some minor updates for the State Historian's Council adopted in 2018 by the History Colorado Board of Directors, specify that the board will appoint members based on nominations presented by the History Colorado staff. The Council meets 4 times per year, and state Historians write one feature story over the course of their term, plus an annual state historian address. We are in an unusual position appointing mid-term appointments due to Vandebusch's vacancy. The appointee will serve the remaining term and have the option to move to a second term. In addition, we are creating an emeritus role on the council. Ward asked for a motion to approve the proposed amendments to operating procedures. Sullivan motioned to approve; Tate seconded; motion passed.

Hanson presented two nominees:

1. Dr. Claire Oberon Garcia is professor of English at Colorado College whose research focuses on Black history as it is portrayed through literature, with a particular emphasis on women of the Black Atlantic in the early part of the twentieth century.
2. Dr. Susan Schulten is professor of history at the University of Denver, where she has taught since 1996. Her research innovatively uses old maps to tell new stories about history.

Ward asked for a motion to approve the two nominees. Tate motioned to approve; Lynne seconded; motion passed.

Exhibit Schedule - Hanson touched on the exhibition schedule, noting that the Sand Creek Massacre exhibition is set to open in mid-November. He also mentioned that there are new galleries planned on the lower level and 2nd floor of the HCC.

Financial Report - Colón reported that the FY2021 audit was completed. There was one material finding related to our fixed assets which has been resolved going forward; and two minor findings will also be addressed. The fund balance for reserve purposes is \$5,808,255.

Parry reported that FY22 period 7 revenues are on target. The FY23 budget is a proposal only. We will have the finalized proposal at the May board meeting. This budget proposal factors a base of \$11M. We are adding three line items to allow us to better manage our responsibilities. Curatorial services and collections access its own line as does historic site maintenance and statewide programming. This year, we used a zero based budget approach with every department identifying needs/wants to create them. The proposed budget increase projects a surplus of \$500K. Musgraves doesn't want to lose sight of the dashboard that has previously been provided to capture visitation numbers on a regular basis. DiPrince replied that we have

those and will share them with the board. Finlon commented on Musgraves service and noted that his term is coming to an end. She would like to develop a plan on how to maintain institutional knowledge; a committee structure might be an option.

There being no other business meeting adjourned at 10:22am.