

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HISTORY COLORADO
May 24, 2017**

A meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado/HC) Board of Directors was held at 8:00 am at the History Colorado Center on May 24, 2017. Present were directors Marco Abarca, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Bob Musgraves, and Tamra Ward. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner, Elisa Phelps, Jason Hanson, Cynthia Nieb and Dianne Brown. Also attending was Mavis Kacena, Volunteer Council President, Judy Durzo, Volunteer Council President-Elect, and Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

Bob Musgraves, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:05 am. As a quorum was not present, he advised that the meeting would be informational only and any business would be dealt with by email or carried over to the next meeting.

Chair

- Musgraves introduced Dianne Brown who will be replacing Sherry Lestina as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. Lestina will be retiring from History Colorado on June 30, 2017.
- The minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2017 were approved without change. (Attachment A)
- Due to the lack of a quorum, several items on the agenda will be postponed to the June 9, 2017 meeting:
 - Meeting frequency going forward
 - Term limits for Board of Director members (as Carpenter Dea will not be able to attend the June board meeting, she wanted folks to know that she is in favor of less frequent board meetings and term limits)
 - Board self-assessment
 - Executive Director assessment
 - Foundation relations
 - Grant approval process

Finances (Attachment B)

- HC continues to anticipate ending the fiscal year in the black or at breakeven. KM has a new sales force that is dedicated to increasing revenue. The deficit in revenue from KM has decreased from \$60K to \$40K since the first part of 2017. KM probably will not be able to make up the entire deficit by the end of the fiscal year, but is making progress. A deficit for OAHP continues to be reflected in the P&L, however, HC recently received a letter stating that the federal funds involved will be deposited in the HC account in Period 11, which will resolve this deficit. Abarca asked about the likelihood of federal funds continuing in the current political environment. Turner responded that we don't know for sure, but reports indicate the funding will continue. Abarca also asked about Museum attendance, is it increasing now that *Backstory* is open? Turner reported that HC is seeing an increase. In addition, Abarca would like to see a report when an exhibit closes showing some exhibit facts, i.e., how much did it cost to build/rent, attendance, etc. Turner indicated that Jason Hanson will be providing these sorts of "post-mortem" reports. Turner noted that the P&L may need to be adjusted to reflect restricted giving in cases where there are offsetting restricted expenses that do appear in the P&L; he

believes those revenues may be missing from the report currently. Turner will be talking with the new Director of Development about this.

Collections (Attachment C)

- Elisa Phelps, the Director of Collections & Library, made a presentation to the Board. She started by reviewing the Collection Plan, which reflects the strategic goals that are the basis for collecting items. The current collection targets relate largely to upcoming exhibits. A new podcast program developed by the Collections group is gaining interest. Turner has had several conversations with Stephen Sturm of the Sturm Family Foundation, who is very interested in the program. HC will need to have a full-time staff member in place to fully develop this program. HC will be able to use the income from an endowment gift received in 2014 and is negotiating a gift from the Sturm Family Foundation to fully fund the podcast program. There is also an offer of assistance from the University of Denver to help build a robust oral history program that can be converted into podcasts. Abarca asked about collecting from under-represented communities. Turner replied that this will be one of the duties for the yet-to-be-hired Director of Inclusion. Carpenter Dea discussed the project she is working on with Rocky Mountain PBS. They are currently filming a pilot for a series on older citizens of Colorado that have made a significant impact in their field. Carpenter Dea would like to eventually see this series housed at HC. The Collections staff is currently working on a project about major league baseball coming to Colorado. This includes the history of the development of the new stadium and acquiring the Rockies franchise. Some of this audio material would lend itself to several podcasts that should appeal to a varied audience.

5-Year Exhibit Plan (Attachment D)

- Jason Hanson, the Director of Exhibits and Interpretation, then presented a report to the Board about activities in his area. There are two exhibit openings scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend—a new exhibit at Byers-Evans about women in WWI and the reopening of Fort Vasquez with a living history weekend following renovation and the hiring of a new Site Manager. Hanson reviewed the upcoming exhibit schedule and highlighted several of the exhibits. An exhibit on Sand Creek is on the schedule for 2019; however, timing will be entirely dependent upon the timing of the consultations with the interested tribes. There is a potential that it could be pushed back, if necessary. Musgraves asked about how we, as an organization, try to gauge what people want to see. Hanson replied that we follow the guidance provided by our mission statement, listen to feedback from the general public and artists, and review data. Abarca spoke about the possibility of exporting exhibits in the future. Turner said that is something HC definitely wants to do.

Executive Director Update

- Several additional items on the agenda will be postponed until the June 9th meeting owing to the lack of a quorum at this meeting:
 - State and National Review Board
 - Director of Inclusion
- SHF grants – will deal with this matter by email, as it needs to take place before the meeting on the 9th.

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- Lobbyist contract – Turner advised the Board that he has decided to renew the contract with Debbie Wagner’s lobbying firm (which handles lobbying for non-SHF matters). HC had an exceptional legislative session, including receiving \$1.4M in general funds for the community museums, which he felt were due in some measure to Debbie’s assistance. (Attachment E)
- 3rd floor gallery – design meetings continue with Tryba Architects. Boettcher has yet to finalize their potential gift with their Board of Directors.
- Director of Development – an offer was extended to Kathi Grummel, who has accepted and will start in July.
- Lowry – Ward excused herself from this discussion because of her conflict of interest. Turner reported that the Legislature passed HB 1317 allowing HC to sell the Lowry facility and retain the proceeds for other capital projects. Unfortunately, the initial party interested in the property had to back out of bidding for financial considerations. Other offers are now under consideration. Carpenter Dea asked if the end use of the property can be restricted. Musgraves responded that it technically could be, although that might not be the best course. He noted that we are being very sensitive to the ultimate end use of the property and how that will fit in with the largely residential neighborhood.
- HC has received notice of a very generous legacy gift from the estate of Marilyn Brown and Doug Morton. This gift will be received upon Ms. Brown’s passing. Discussions are underway with Ms. Brown on how she and her late husband would like to be recognized for this generous gift.
- The legacy gift of land in Weld County Colorado that was previously discussed with the Board now appears to be in question. It appears that the property had actually been sold prior to the death of the donor and was no longer part of her estate. HC will secure a title report to verify this information and to find out exactly when the land was sold and under what circumstances.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 am.