

History Colorado  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 26, 2017  
Minutes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met on July 26, 2017, at 8:00am, at the History Colorado Center (Denver). Present were directors Marco Abarca, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Rick Pederson, Ann Pritzlaff, and Tamra Ward. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner, Mark Rodman and Cynthia Nieb. Also attending was Mavis Kacena, Volunteer Council President, Judy Durzo, Volunteer Council President-Elect, and Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Bob Musgraves, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:08am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Chair:

- The Board gave special recognition to Cathey Finlon for her having volunteered a great deal of personal time and effort to the organization over the last year or so in providing day-to-day mentoring and transition assistance to Steve after he assumed his new role as ED. Special thanks and gratitude for all of her efforts and particularly for her work in the area of membership and development. Cathey was presented with flowers and a Steve Turner original vase in gratitude.
- The minutes of the June 9, 2017 meeting were approved without change.
- Musgraves reminded members to review the conflict of interest policy and code of conduct and return their completed conflicts form to Dianne. Dianne will follow up with any board members as needed and will distribute the complication of the conflict information for all to see.
- SHF Grant review process – The Board revisited its responsibility over the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Committee and the approval of State Historical Fund grants. Musgraves reviewed the present situation. The current AHPC consists of 9 members, one being a member of the Board, but there is no formal process for selecting those members and the committee is not formally a part of the bylaws. SHF grant applications are initially reviewed and scored by several experienced preservationists. Then the results of those individual scoring efforts are reviewed by a separate panel, following which the recommendations of that panel are reviewed in considerable detail by the AHPC. At that point, the recommendation of the AHPC is brought to the Board for final approval. Musgraves feels that the Board brings nothing to the grant review process as it is basically a rubber stamp of the work already done by the AHPC and others. He would be in favor of having the Board exercise its oversight responsibility in this area by naming the members of the committee and devolving responsibility for the final decision on grants to the AHPC.

Pritzlaff disagreed. She feels that as the gubernatorially appointed body, the Board should retain ultimate approval authority in this area.

Following lengthy discussion, Ward moved that (1) the Board approve a charter for the AHPC and name the members of the committee (the chair of the committee would be required to be a Board member) and (2) the committee would review the grants in detail and make a recommendation to the Board, which recommendation would then be handled by the Board via a consent agenda without spending the time to review the specifics of the recommendation. Following a second, that motion was adopted. Musgraves and Pritzlaff will work with Staff to prepare and distribute the AHPC charter and proposed membership to the Board for consideration and formalization at the next meeting.

- Term limits – This issue was discussed at the June meeting. Musgraves proposed seeking legislation to create term limits for the Board which would facilitate the addition of new members and new thinking. Ward moved to seek legislation that would limit Board members to three full terms (of three years each, so an effective limit of nine years). Following a second, that motion was approved.
- October meeting – Musgraves reported that the plans to hold a two-day meeting in Pueblo and Trinidad on October 6-7 were not going to work out, as it turns out that too many folks could not make those specific dates. Dianne will poll members to identify new dates. Dianne will also confirm that invites have gone out for a meeting in November.

#### Executive Director:

- Turner introduced Kathi Grummel, the new Development Director. Kathi shared her background with the Board and stated that she will build a donor list and develop an “elevator speech” for the Board that can be used during social events. She will also take steps to keep the Board better informed of the identities of HC’s larger donors so that those donors can be personally thanked as opportunities arise.
- Financials – Turner reported that the end of year financial results appear to be \$170K favorable to budget (budget was breakeven) before taking into account the \$300K in Federal funds that were budgeted and are now expected to be received in mid-August. He thanked the Board for its support of the performance incentive program for which payments were made in late July in accordance with the Board’s authorization in June.
- SHF grants – Pritzlaff reviewed the SHF grant review process and presented the recommendations of the AHPC for funding and non-funding of specific grants. On motion duly made and seconded, those recommendations were approved (Musgraves abstaining because of his position as a director of Colorado Preservation, Inc., one of the grant applicants).
- Atrium – The goal is to upgrade the existing technology, enhance the existing video wall on the north, and add a new video wall on the east. The proposed budget from Panasonic is \$1.5M. Pederson wants the proposal ultimately coming back to the Board to be as big and high tech as possible, and then we can then pare down from that. Turner will talk to LA Airport and Comcast about the maintenance of the technology at their facilities. The Board continues to support the overall concept for the enhancing the atrium with new technology and encouraged Turner to “go big” in his thinking.

- Byers-Evans – Turner requested approval to approach the Colorado Historical Foundation for \$381K in Byers-Evans endowment monies currently held by CHF. These funds would be used for interior structural work and exterior preservation work. While the roof is in disrepair, he will postpone this item and separately pursue capital construction funds from the State for that purpose. The Board recommends letting the Evans family know of the proposed upgrades. On motion duly made and seconded, this request was approved.
- Lowry – Turner reported that several previous third-party proposals to buy the property have fallen through, as the potential buyers are finding that they will need to spend more than anticipated to upgrade the facility. However, another potential offer is in the works. He asked if the Board would object to leasing if a sale could not be finalized soon. Members thought it made good sense to pursue leasing if we can't get the desired value through a sale.
- 100 Objects Exhibit – Turner reviewed the list of the objects currently being proposed for the 100 Objects exhibit that he expects to open this Fall. The Board was pleased with the proposed exhibit list. Turner reported that the team is currently finalizing the budget and other details. Of the anticipated \$550K exhibit cost (exclusive of construction costs), we have \$150K in commitments and will continue to pursue additional funding. Turner is requesting Board authority to spend up to \$660K for this exhibit out of the 22T Fund. On motion duly made and seconded, this funding request was approved.
- The Board then went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 10:38am.