



History Colorado
Board of Directors Meeting
September 27, 2017
Minutes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met on September 27, 2017, at 8:00am, at the Byers-Evans Museum (Denver). Present were directors Marco Abarca, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Rick Pederson, Ann Pritzlaff, Alan Salazar, Chris Tetzeli, and Tamra Ward. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner, Kathi Grummel, Shannon Haltiwanger, Elisa Phelps, Mark Rodman, and Michelle Zale. Also attending was Judy Durzo, Volunteer Council President, Mavis Kacena, Volunteer, and Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Bob Musgraves, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:04am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Chair:

- The minutes of the July 26, 2017 meeting were approved without change.
- Term limits – Following up on this item of discussion from July, Musgraves recommends the board consider adding term limit language to the By-Laws rather than seeking a statutory change. There were concerns about diverting attention away from the organization’s request to secure additional State funding to help offset increases in OIT charges. The Board agreed. Musgraves will work with Turner on drafting language for the proposed bylaw change.

Executive Director:

- Philanthropy Vision – Steve asked Kathi Grummel, HC’s Chief Philanthropy Officer, to talk about her vision for her organization after having joined HC in July. Kathi noted that her staff has experienced an almost complete turnover since her arrival. She introduced two new team members, Cheyenne Johnson, Annual Fund Manager, and Dannielle Stewart, Philanthropy Coordinator. The Development office is now being referred to as the Office of Philanthropy. Kathi and Steve feel that the new name better fits the sort of forward thinking that needs to take place in this area of the organization. The Board agreed. Musgraves asked Grummel what changes she was seeing as necessary to succeed in this area. Kathi felt that the group needed more structure than it had in the past. Grummel is working to eliminate silos and, at the same time, create content experts. Turner noted that HC is hiring a development person in Ft. Garland to help the Community Museums connect with people who want to support programs and exhibits at a Community Museum in their region.
- Deaccession – Elisa Phelps reviewed the five recommended deaccession proposals. Musgraves asked for clarification on how the staff decides which items should be considered for removal from the collection. Phelps shared the process staff takes to make that determination. Finlon would like to see more detail in the future so the Board clearly understands what they are

approving, especially when an item is being destroyed, possibly a separate committee or task force. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed deaccessions were approved.

- Collection Strategic Plan – Phelps reminded the Board that the Collection Plan was previously presented to the Board, but the vote could not occur because there was not a quorum. She indicated that the scope of collection was most important. Abarca thanked her for working on this. He asked about the status of the proposed curator for under-represented groups. Turner reported that Human Resources is working on this and will post in 2017, but was quick to add that he is seeing the position much more broadly than just a collections curator. The position will reach across the organization to work with collections, programming, exhibits, etc. to bring under-represented communities to HC's offerings. Therefore, the job requirements for this position will include experience working with diverse communities. Musgraves would like to defer voting on the Collection Plan until we have gone through the on-going strategic planning exercise.
- Hart Award Nominations – Mark Rodman presented the nominations for the Hart Award. He provided an overview on the process. These nominations have been vetted by the Preservation Committee and are being recommended for approval by the Board. On motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were approved.
- Archaeology & Historic Preservation Committee (AHPC) – The proposed charter for the AHPC was presented for approval, along with the proposed Committee membership. Musgraves clarified that this proposal is to formalize the AHPC as a Board committee and document the responsibilities of the Committee. On motion duly made and seconded, the AHPC charter was approved. Rodman then presented the list of proposed Committee members for approval. Musgraves stated that the charter specifies that the Committee shall have no less than 9 members, one of whom is a member of the Board, who have particular expertise in archaeology, architecture, and historic preservation. The Committee Chair would be one of the Board members named to the Committee. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed list of Committee members, including making Ann Pritzlaff the Committee Chair, was approved. Cathy Carpenter Dea appreciated learning who the Committee members are in her region, as she would like to reach out to them to build a relationship.
- State & National Register – Turner presented the proposed additions to the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. He noted that these recommendations come from the State Register Review Board for approval by the HC Board. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed additions were approved.
- SHF Grant Applications – Turner presented the list of approved and unapproved SHF Grant Applications. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed grants recommended for funding were approved. Dea requested more information on the CT Hurst Museum. Staff will get back to Dea on that request.
- Financials – Turner reviewed the financials. There was discussion about the various unobligated fund balances. Musgraves requested that a history of activity be added to the report on unobligated fund balances so that the Board could see what has happened to each fund over

the course of the current fiscal year (rather than just seeing the current balance). Turner raised concerns about the approach we are taking in reserving a portion of each year's gaming funds. He is concerned that someone might look to reduce our funding because we are not using those monies. He feels there may be a better strategy that would accomplish the same objective (use all of the current year gaming monies and instead reserve part of the organization's earned income). Salazar suggested a meeting with Henry Sobanet, Executive Director of OSPB to seek Sobanet's advice on this matter.

- Atrium – Steve Turner reported that he met with Mike Yankovich, Executive Director of the Children's Museum, to discuss some of the concepts being considered for the atrium. The Children's Museum actually has a team that is engaged in this sort of evaluation on a fee-for-service basis. Steve intends to engage this team to do an evaluation at a cost of less than \$20K.
- Strategic Priorities – Turner provided an update on the strategic priorities outlined by the Board in January 2017. He is pleased with the progress being made. Turner asked members to save November 17th for the VIP opening of Zoom In.
- Volunteer Report – Judy Durzo will defer presentation of the Volunteers Report until the November 15 Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the regular business meeting was adjourned and the Board moved into its strategic planning session.