

HISTORY COLORADO
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 14, 2015

A conference call meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado) Board of Directors was held at 4:00 p.m. at the History Colorado Center on September 14, 2015. Present on the call were directors: Cathey Finlon, Ken Lund, Rick Pederson, Robert Musgraves, Ann Pritzlaff, Tamra Ward, and Charlie Woolley. Staff attending in person were: Ashleigh Hampf, Sherry Lestina, Ed Nichols, and Steve Turner. Alexis Senger, from the State of Colorado Office of Planning and Budget was also on the conference call.

Ann Pritzlaff, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and confirmed the presence of a quorum. Ashleigh Hampf served as recording secretary.

Transition Team Update

Pritzlaff thanked everyone for participating in the call. Turner noted that transition information is being communicated to History Colorado's (HC) partners. Musgraves and Turner are meeting on Friday with KM staff to discuss the contract and modify their Guest Services involvement. Moving forward, KM will be the preferred contactor at Grant Humphreys Mansion. KM will be using their liquor license at the site which will provide HC with a portion of the liquor sales. Musgraves and Turner met JJ Rutherford, Elisa Phelps, Shannon Voirol, and Abby Krause about a small exhibits projects for the holidays. Finlon will help in a Strategic Planning Session for October. Musgraves and Turner provided finalized budgets to each Division.

Turner attended a meeting today with the Regional Museums, which the Directors expressed the need for additional FTEs. They also want to feel more support from the History Colorado Center (HCC) staff in exhibits, development and education. All feel there are some opportunities for growth. Regional museums are hampered by the lack of basic funding to start programs. El Pueblo generated revenue last year in education, however, their starting out budget is low and they are unable to grow their program.

Directors Council

Pritzlaff got a phone call from Governor Hickenlooper. He is interested in having the Directors Council in an advisory role rather than participate in fundraising. Finlon thought that was not a good idea as the museum needs to generate private support. Pritzlaff agreed and said she told the Governor that HC needs a fundraising arm of some type. Finlon asked if he is interested in a content Board. Ann replied that he is thinking the Directors Council could be similar to a farm team, utilizing people that do committee work, before they are potentially appointed to the Board. Finlon thought this was possible if there is also a group to help HC with fundraising. Ward stated that she felt it was most important to create a team that will bring in resources. Once a deliberate Committee plan is ready, the Board should approach the Governor. Pritzlaff received a

suggestion from the Governor to use Jeff Ewing from Blake Street Group to help in executive assessment.

State Historian

Pritzlaff discussed the State Historian position and the possibility of designating someone from outside of the organization to fill that role, similar to the poet laureate. Pritzlaff recommended Patty Limerick. Pritzlaff is working on setting up a contract stating the term limit, honorarium, and speaking engagements. The Governor did not object to this.

Personnel

Staff was asked to voluntarily leave the meeting. Staff left the meeting at 4:30.

Following, the Board addressed organizational structure and budget considerations. This includes assessing how to condense and prioritize staffing to achieve mission while implementing budget reductions.

NEXT MEETINGS

The 2015 meetings are held every two weeks on Thursdays from 8:00-10:00. Upcoming dates October 15, October 29, November 5, November 19, December 3, and December 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashleigh Hampf
Executive Assistant