

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HISTORY COLORADO

December 3, 2015

A meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado/HC) Board of Directors was held at 8:00 am at the History Colorado Center (HCC) on December 3, 2015. Present were directors Marco Abarca, Ken Lund, Rick Pederson, Ann Pritzlaff, Tamra Ward, and Charlie Woolley. History Colorado staff in attendance were Mark Tobias, Jennifer Bryant, and Alisa Zahller. Also attending was Ed Ellis, Volunteer, and Mavis Kacena, Volunteer Council President. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

Ann Pritzlaff, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:03 am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Pritzlaff indicated that she had attended the Colorado Historical Foundation (CHF) board meeting and holiday reception on December 2, 2015. Pritzlaff advised that Frank Kugeler, CHF Board Chair, will be responding to HC's recent letter to the Foundation. We should expect the response to be favorable toward continuing the dialog.

Ute Indian Museum Groundbreaking: Woolley attended the groundbreaking ceremony on December 2nd 2015 in Montrose to represent the HC board. Both Woolley and Turner talked about the speakers at the event and how much this expansion means to the three Ute Tribes involved. The demolition has been completed, and it is anticipated that the building will open in 2017. The building will initially be completed and open as a rental facility and visitor center/gift shop. The exhibits will be completed in the year after the building opens. The State of Colorado has provided \$2.5M to HC for the expansion; however we will need additional funds for the exhibits. The Town of Montrose and all three Ute Tribes have been solicited for contributions. There are numerous individuals on the fundraising list who will also be solicited and are, hopefully, more likely to give to a project on the Western Slope than to something in Denver. HC needs approximately \$400,000 for exhibit design and build (over and above the \$140,000 or so already committed). Ward requested Janet Burlile attend the next board meeting to give an update on the fundraising plan.

Multiple consultations have taken place with the three Ute Tribes and they have taken a very active role in planning the building. HC is also consulting with the group on the exhibit design and stories to be told. These consultations will continue during the construction.

Archaeological work completed at the Ute Indian museum site: HC usually contracts with an outside firm to do archaeological excavations. However, as HC felt it would be advantageous to have an archaeologist on site during the excavation, HC in-house archaeologists Mark Tobias and Jennifer Bryant undertook the task and saved the project approximately \$30,000 in outside consulting fees. The museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Approximately 44% of the sample sites investigated resulted in artifacts, mostly projectile points and flakes from approximately 7,000 B.P. (Attachment A) This field work will help HC archaeologists keep their skills up-to-date and could possibly be used in training and/or fundraising development. A question was asked about how HC will get this information out to the public. The Office of Archaeology and History Preservation (OAHP) is in the process of making this and other archaeological information available. Turner and Mary Sullivan (OAHP Information Manager) will give a presentation at the next board meeting

showing how OAHP is working to get this information out in public view and how we can do more with the information we have.

Update on *Who Knew!?*: Curator, Alisa Zahller, explained that this project began as a request to create some new interest in HC, drive attendance over the holidays, and signal a new phase for HC. The curators looked in the collections for iconic artifacts that have a high degree of public name recognition, what spaces could be used, and light and public access concerns. Zahller also showed a PowerPoint presentation of the artifacts that will be used in this installation.

Pederson asked if any artifacts can be displayed on the 4th floor in the rental spaces to perhaps whet event attendee's appetites to visit the museum. Zahller stated that there are space, lighting, and time concerns associated with the space that will have to be investigated. Lund moved, Abarca seconded the motion that some exhibit cases be added to the rental spaces on the 4th floor. The motion carried. Turner is to provide a timeline regarding the installation of the exhibit case(s).

Exhibits Planning: An exhibits development team meeting was held November 23, 2015. Topics included: exhibit development policy and procedures, exhibit updates, El Movimiento, Awkward Family Photos exhibit, and the Ute Indian Museum expansion exhibits. The staff will be working on a multi-step process for exhibit selection and will present to the board at a later date.

State Historian: The contract is fully negotiated and in process of being signed with an effective date of January 1, 2016. The announcement date is to be determined and will also include the announcement of a history forum to be held in March. This forum is tentatively titled "Making History Relevant" and will bring some historians from other academic institutions together with HC to talk about the importance of history. Abarca suggested inviting CSPAN and tying the event to the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Sand Creek Consultation: A tribal consultation was held November 30th and December 1st. The Tribal concerns continue to be the interpretation of the old Sand Creek exhibit and the Bent Fort's exhibit currently on the 2nd floor. There was a cartoonish video game that has been on display in the Bent Fort's exhibit, which the tribes felt was offensive. This video game was immediately removed from the exhibit and other steps were taken to address the Tribes' concerns and develop some goodwill. Turner feels that future consultations will now move forward in a more positive manner.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 am.