

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HISTORY COLORADO

DECEMBER 17, 2015

A meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado) Board of Directors was held at 8:00 am at the History Colorado Center on December 17, 2015. Present were directors Marco Abarca, Bob Musgraves, Rick Pederson, Ann Alexander Pritzlaff, Tamra Ward, and Charlie Woolley. Staff in attendance were Susan Beyda, Janet McFarland Burlile, Steve Turner, and Michelle Zale. Also in attendance was Ed Ellis, current volunteer and former Volunteer Council President. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

Ann Pritzlaff, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:06 am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Consent agenda: Abarca moved approval of the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Pederson and Woolley, and carried. (Attachment A)

Pritzlaff reviewed the agenda and noted the copies of the emails and documents between HC and newly appointed State Historian Dr. Patty Limerick that have been circulated. Limerick, Kurt Gutjahr (Managing Director for the Center of the American West), Jason Hanson (PhD candidate and newly appointed Assistant State Historian) and Brooke Neely (Visiting Fellow, Center of the American West) will be joining the meeting at 9:00 am.

Finance: The packet of financial information provided (Attachment B) is up-to-date, however, the data in CORE is still a concern. The current financial statement shows a large deficit due to the COP payment. However, after that is paid, the projected deficit for FY 16 will be approximately \$834,000. A total of \$250,000 budgeted for unexpected expenses was used to cover the retirement incentives and severance costs.. The Division Directors feel that expenses and budgets are on track. The Dashboard provides a snapshot of key metrics that drive the financial numbers. By most measures, we are ahead of this same time last year. This information will be provided to staff on a monthly basis. The Division Directors will meet the week before board meeting to help prepare for financial presentations. Asked why the Education programs appear to be tracking very high, Musgraves noted that it wasn't clear that we had good numbers yet in this area; it would require some added focus. The fund balance sheet shows the statutory funds that are controlled by HC. This fund balance information will be provided on a quarterly basis. The 7250 fund, which is a restricted fund that is no longer supposed to be used without prior board approval, was used for \$128K of expenditures for bills for the Toys exhibit and other miscellaneous contracts. Musgraves explained that these particular expenditures were approved and committed about a year ago. The grant from Trinchera Blanco is to be used for staffing and education at Ft. Garland. Abarca asked about visitation at both the community museums and HCC. The community museums combined actually see a larger number of visitors. The El Pueblo Museum is testing a community pass with lower membership fees.

Policy regarding gaming increase: Musgraves encouraged the board to develop a policy with respect to how HC will handle any future increase in gaming funds that it might receive. Musgraves suggests that any excess funds be put into a restricted "savings account" where the funds could be used for special purposes (e.g., leasing an exhibit, fixing Bloom House, etc) rather than being put into the operating budget where they might result in increasing

employment levels again. Musgraves moved, and Abarca seconded, a motion that any gaming funds in excess of \$10M per year be placed in a savings account to be used for special purposes. The motion was duly seconded and carried. By statute, HC will receive a maximum 3.5% increase even if the gaming increase is higher. Ward congratulated Turner and Musgraves for their efforts with the Joint Budget Committee. She suggested that the JBC be advised of this new policy as further demonstration of HC's commitment to financial stability.

By-laws: Musgraves presented the amended and restated bylaws (Attachment C) for consideration. The revisions and changes were previously detailed to the board and have been approved by the Attorney General's office. He noted that one additional change made since the last draft was distributed to the board would negate the requirement to hold an annual meeting of members. A placeholder has been inserted into the By-laws for the potential Directors Council. The hope is to make the Directors Council purely optional by amending the existing statute, but right now it is mandatory (although no specific timeframe is reflected), so the revised bylaws continue to reflect its possible existence. Musgraves moved, and Ward seconded, to approve the revised By-laws. The motion carried.

Ute Indian museum fundraising: The State of Colorado has provided \$2.5M for the building expansion. Approximately \$400K is also needed for the exhibits, which will have to be raised through gifts. Montrose is a small community and a large portion of the population is older and retired. Janet Burlile, Susan Beyda, and Shannon Voirol attended the groundbreaking on December 2nd and also attended some community meetings during the 4 days they were in Montrose. Burlile asked that the board members let her know if any of them have connections to any community members in Montrose. Development will also be reviewing SHF grant recipients on Western Slope to look for any fundraising potential. The building itself is expected to be completed next summer; however, the parking lot is not expected to be completed until early 2017. It is currently anticipated construction and installation of the exhibits will take at least another at least 6 months at a minimum after completion of the building. Finlon suggested that Development speak to the Denver Art Museum about people who collect Native American art, as they might be potential donors. Also, maybe talk to some of the Section 106 contractors that work with HC. The Smithsonian American Indian Museum donor list is another possibility. Woolley expressed his view that the building should not be opened without the exhibits in place. (Attachment D, E)

Pearce McAllister Cottage: The main problem with developing an alternative use for the property is the lack of parking. The legislature has appropriated about \$850K toward the restoration of the building. The plan is to spend \$350K of this money as soon as possible to take care of certain basic issues that need to be addressed regardless of the ultimate use.. The Doll Museum will be in residence potentially through summer 2016.

State Historian: After Limerick, Gutjahr, Hanson and Neely joined the meeting, Pritzlaff reviewed Limerick's expertise. The contract states how many exhibits will be consulted on, number of articles, lectures, etc. The contract is currently in signature process. The planning for a "Town Hall/Forum" with other leading academics to talk about the relevance of Colorado history and why history matters has been started. Limerick expressed her concerns about the pop-up exhibit regarding firearms and Kit Carson. Unfortunately, Limerick and her group were consulted too late in the process to make any changes. (Attachment F) Jason Hanson will be Deputy State Historian. Abarca reviewed what HC board is looking for. He talked about our search for an executive director. He also stated that we have a civic responsibility to the citizens of Colorado to be inclusive and use the collections and create things not only for HCC,

but for the Community Museums and other non-HC museums. Woolley noted that the HC interpretative plan has not been updated since 2008. He would like to use HC to give Coloradoans a place to discover what it is to be a proud Coloradoan. Pederson wants to create a symmetry and meld of ideas between The Center of the American West and HC. He would like to schedule another meeting to discuss additional ideas and particular areas of focus. Musgraves asked about what will happen when HC and the State Historian do not agree on the content of an exhibit. Limerick feels this can be good for discussion. Gutjahr see it as an opportunity to add to the exhibit. Turner talked about the fact that HC doesn't have any PhD or Masters level historians on staff at this time. Ward feels the State Historian will bring a new "lens" to HC to help it share its stories. Pritzlaff feels this appointment raises the bar in terms of HC's academic level and hopes that it encourages dialogue and tells stories that are relevant. She also sees this as advancing and sharing the lessons of history, supporting education in the classroom by the exhibits, and also providing a gateway to partnering with students, universities and colleges.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.