

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
HISTORY COLORADO  
April 21, 2016

A meeting of the Colorado Historical Society (History Colorado/HC) Board of Directors was held at 8:00 am at the History Colorado Center on April 21, 2016. Present were directors Marco Abarca, Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Rick Pederson, Ann Pritzlaff, and Charlie Woolley. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner, Elisa Phelps, and Michelle Zale. Also attending were Patty Limerick, Kurt Gutjahr and Jason Hanson from the Center of the American West, Mavis Kacena, Volunteer Council President, and Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

Ann Pritzlaff, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:01 am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

**Chair update:**

- The search for the executive director is continuing.
- Pritzlaff just returned from a successful trip to Washington, D. C. where she was advocating for historic preservation for National Parks with the Youth Summit students.

**Deputy Executive Director report:**

- HC submitted a grant application to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for \$5M to teach elements of the Ute Tribes as it applies to STEM education. If successful, this grant will provide funds for educational programs, exhibits at the Ute Indian Museum and the Ute Denver exhibit. The NSF appears to be giving our application very serious consideration as they have asked for supplemental information twice. Notification from the NSF regarding this grant is expected in July.
- The National Western Center has requested that HC consider conducting some educational programs in the NW Denver neighborhoods. One of the HC educators, Steve Luebke, reported that HC has already held programs in that area, and will continue to do so. HC has been at the forefront in these neighborhoods with the designation of some of the buildings as historic properties.
- Turner will be testifying at the Gaming Commission later this morning regarding the gambling tax rate. HC's position will be to keep the same rate.
- Dawn DiPrince, Community Museum Director, will report at the next board meeting about community museum planning. HC is considering adding some information/exhibits to the Byers-Evans House Museum about the City of Denver and Denver architecture. DiPrince will be recognized for her exceptional performance by employees in State government from across Colorado on May 3<sup>rd</sup> during Public Service Recognition Week.

- Discussion continues on the sale of the Lowry property. Woolley, Pederson, Musgraves and Turner have been working on this to determine if sale of the property is the best use of this facility. It appears the deed doesn't restrict the sale of this building. It is also believed that HC will be able to keep the funds from any sale. HC has been consulting with the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the Attorney General's Office regarding the potential sale. Currently waiting on a broker market opinion. Turner will contact them to ask that the opinion be expedited.
- Turner met with Christoph Heinrich from the Denver Art Museum. The DAM has offered portions of their western art collection to HC as a loan to fill our exhibit gap in 2017; however, they cautioned that they do not have significant staff time available to help curate an exhibit. HC will need to develop a historic angle to make this an interesting exhibit to our visitors. The DAM had also asked about using the lower level at HC, but HC doesn't have a humidification system for that level, so it will not suit their needs. The understanding is that there will be no revenue sharing with the DAM. HC will incur some costs to develop and install this exhibit, which we would like to open in March 2017.
- The estimate from YESCO for new media screens in the atrium needs additional work before it will be ready for presentation to the Board.
- According to Turner, Tetzeli is interested in doing a concert series at HC that his company would underwrite. The Tiny Library Concert series have been very successful. Seating for the series was increased and the concerts have been selling out.
- Jennifer Clayman, HR Director, is leaving HC. Several alternatives are being reviewed for human resources coverage at HC in the future.
- Dr. Pamela Laird, CU Denver, met with Turner as CU Denver was concerned that HC's partnership with the Center of the American West would affect our other partnerships. Turner assured her that our relationship with CU Denver will not be affected. Dr. Laird suggested a potential new partnership regarding digital technology. Will continue the discussion.
- We would like to attempt to move the Community Museums back to the State General Fund. Alexis Senger, OSPB, has offered to help HC with a proposal for \$2M to supplement Community Museum funding, which would be in addition to the funding the museums receive from HC. A working group with OSPB, CDHE, the Community Museums and HC Finance will be formed to work on this proposal.
- Work on the Bloom House in Trinidad has been progressing. The ground floor will open this summer with a Colorado photo exhibit.

- Preservation –
  - The latest grant round was completed in April. Received grant requests for approximately \$7.5M competing for the roughly \$4.5M in grant funds available.
  - Final approval was received from the National Park Service for the 5-year update to the State Preservation Plan.
  - The National Conference for State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) Intermountain West Regional meeting will be held at HC in September.
- A draft copy of the budget was distributed. (Attachment A) Input has been received from all Division Directors regarding their portion of the budget.

**Exhibit Calendar:** Dr. Patty Limerick presented the draft of the newly created five-year exhibit calendar. The concept would be to have a “Beacon” exhibit open in March each year, a “Summer/Fun” exhibit open by Memorial Day and a “Fall/Educational” exhibit around Labor Day that would focus on educational opportunities for the upcoming school year. Limerick reviewed the calendar in detail. On motion by Finlon, seconded by Abarca, the Exhibit Calendar was approved, in concept. (Attachment B) Limerick also spoke briefly about the American Historical Association Conference to be held in Denver in January 2017 and the potential for collaboration between our organizations. She also informed the Board that the Western History Association (WHA) is looking for a new home. HC may want to consider the opportunity to become the host for the WHA. There will be a cost to the hosting organization that could run \$100K per year. The Board expressed its interest in the possibility, so Limerick will gather some additional information to continue the discussion.

**Collections deaccessions:** On motion by Musgraves, seconded by Woolley, the deaccession proposal presented by Elisa Phelps was approved. (Attachment C)

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