

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HISTORY COLORADO
August 3, 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 August 3, 2016. Present were directors Marco Abarca, Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Tamra Ward, and Charlie Woolley. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner and Michelle Zale. Also attending was Ed Ellis, Volunteer. Sherry Lestina served as recording secretary.

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

Minutes:

- With one suggested modification, the minutes of the meeting of June 29, 2016 were approved. (Attachment A)

Chair Update:

- Musgraves welcomed all Board members to his first official meeting as Board Chair. He also spoke about his philosophies for board meetings. Musgraves feels that the role of the Board should be changing dramatically as we go forward. Having hired Steve Turner to take care of the day-to-day affairs of the organization, it is time for us to move “out of the weeds” and become more strategic to help shape the overall direction of the organization.
- He will be asking the Board to consider several new policies, including a formal conflict of interest policy, as well as a “Grant of Authority” that would be designed to provide Turner with a level of authority below which he could move forward with plans without seeking specific board approval. These will be proposed within the next several months.
- Variable compensation – there had been earlier discussion about a possible variable compensation plan, but issues have been raised about whether we might need a statutory change to proceed. The plan is on hold for now while this investigation is done.
- Center of the American West – Musgraves has had multiple phone calls with the Center. The proposal is still under discussion. This proposal moves the State Historian’s duties away from exhibits and more into speaking and writing articles. The Center has also requested HC compensate the Center as HC used more of Jason Hanson’s allotted time in March – June due to Hanson’s involvement with the *Awkward Family Photos* and *Horses, Hats and Homes* exhibits development. Musgraves agreed. The agreement between HC and CAW will be re-visited prior to its expiration in December to determine if HC wants to renew the agreement. HC may want to consider a program of rotating historians to reach out to more of the higher education institutions in Colorado.
- Future board meetings may involve having a single HC staff member give a presentation on their division. We will also look into the possibility of having one or more meetings at a Community Museum.

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Financials:

- See Attachments B. HC is now projected to end FY16 with an approximate deficit of \$500K, which is less than originally projected. The KM contract is under discussion, including the gift shop.

Executive Director Update:

- The board update report has been re-organized to more closely mirror the current strategic goals. (Attachment C)
- Several new programs have been started
 - *History Hounds* – a series of walking tours of historic Denver with your dog
 - *History Buffs and Brews* is a new, weekly summer Happy Hour at the Rendezvous Café focused on millennials.
- Turner participated in the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) meeting in Mobile, Alabama. One of the topics was the strength of HC's preservation and Certified Local Government (CLG) programs. HC will be hosting the NCSHPO Intermountain West Regional Conference in September.
- HC had submitted a grant request to the Boettcher Foundation for \$25,000 for the Ute Indian Museum; Boettcher responded with a \$50,000 grant award Turner has re-structured the management team and is meeting with them on a weekly basis. In addition, please see Turner's 2017-2018 Goals (Attachment D).
- Colorado Day was very successful. We had 2,018 visitors.
- Attendance in *Awkward Family Photos* is trending at about 300 – 400 visitors per day. The gallery now has an attendance counter at its door.
- DAM History Exhibit – The DAM shared a list of paintings we will be exhibiting. Exhibit development conversations are on-going. The Art Museum's insurance will cover the paintings while they are displayed at HC. There will be educational and adult programming focused on this exhibit. The ticket sale proceeds will be retained by HC. HC members will be able to visit the DAM for free during the exhibit period, and DAM members will be able to visit HC for free. Finlon and Zale met with Curtis Woitte at the DAM to talk about security and maintenance at HC during the upcoming exhibit.
- Standard resolution for signing authority gives Musgraves, Turner and Zale authorization to sell, assign and transfer stocks, bonds or other securities on behalf of the organization. On motion by Finlon, seconded by Abarca, the Board approved this resolution. (Attachment E)
- Corporation resolution for the History Relevance Campaign. On motion by Finlon, seconded by Abarca, the Board approved this resolution. (Attachment F)
- Lowry update – We believe we are ready to move forward with the sale of this facility. The proceeds from the sale will be used to fund exhibits. The sale proceeds will be placed into 22T temporarily. We may need to obtain legislation to create a longer-term exhibit fund with spending authority. On motion by Abarca, seconded by Woolley, the Board approved proceeding with the sale of the Lowry storage facility. Lowry will be marketed as a building or a tear down and it expected to bring something on the order of \$2M-\$2.5M in value. The property is currently zoned to allow multi-family housing.
- Pueblo storage facility – about 200 pallets from this facility will need to remain in Pueblo as there is insufficient space at the North Storage. The value of retaining the Pueblo facility is under discussion.

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- Hart Awards – On motion by Ward, seconded by Woolley, the Board approved the 2017 nominations for the Hart Awards. (Attachment G)
- Pearce McAllister Cottage – next steps for this property are still on hold as a historic assessment is in process. Will discuss again at a later date.
- A proposal has been written to ask the legislature for \$1.5M in general funds for the community museums. The draft proposal is receiving very good feedback.
- A “thank you” luncheon is planned for September 27th to honor Ann Pritzlaff’s continuing service. The agenda will include a thank you to Pritzlaff and an opportunity to meet Turner.

SHF Grants:

- These grants have been through three, very thorough vetting processes. In the future, Abarca would like to see some examples of these projects. On motion by Woolley, seconded by Abarca, the Board approved the grants as shown in Attachments G. Musgraves abstained from voting because of conflicts of interest.

Development:

- Working on a multi-year fundraising concept. The first would have a \$2500 membership structure and would be titled: *Colorado!* Its purpose would be to establish a group of social individuals that also enjoy history. Would like to hold four events per year. The target is 30 couples the first year. Would like suggestions from the board as to event ideas and potential members. It is planned to be a “high touch” program. The second program would consist of \$10-100K giving to fund exhibits and programs.

Foundation:

- Turner met with Frank Kugeler, Chair of the Board of the Colorado History Foundation. Kugeler told Turner that the Foundation’s board members might be willing to work with HC on fundraising, but on an individual basis, not through the foundation. Discussions to continue on this subject.

Strategic planning:

- Musgraves feels that strategic planning should be a less static process that can readily change and morph as we move forward. Abarca suggested that everyone needs to see all the facilities, museums as well as storage facilities, in order to better aid in this planning process. The planning should have integrated work plans that coordinate with the goals, especially focused on raising revenues. (Attachment I) Discussion will continue at a later time.

Colorado Music Hall of Fame:

- The Hall of Fame is looking for a new permanent home.
 - Cons: would having the Hall of Fame here at HC confuse the identity of HC? Would it compromise exhibit space? Dilute the history focus?
 - Pros: potential to capture an audience that may never enter a history museum. Younger audience.
- Could we ask them if they would like to use Pearce McAllister? Musgraves did not believe that would work for them, as they are looking to establish a presence in the downtown area near the other cultural facilities.

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- Will hold this concept for about six months as HC works towards defining its own identity.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11 am.