



HISTORY *Colorado*

History Colorado
Board of Directors Meeting
March 28, 2018
Minutes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met on March 28, 2018, at 8:00am, at History Colorado Center (Denver). Present were directors Cathy Carpenter Dea (via phone), Cathey Finlon, Bob Musgraves, Ann Pritzlaff, Alan Salazar, and Tamra Ward. History Colorado staff in attendance were Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Steve Grinstead, Kathi Grummel, Jason Hanson, Shannon Haltiwanger, Holly Norton, Elisa Phelps, Mark Rodman, Tim Stroh and Michelle Zale. Also attending were volunteers Mavis Kacena and Margaret Conable. Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Bob Musgraves, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:11am and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

Chair:

- The minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting were approved without change.
- HC Partnership Discussion – Musgraves discussed several options that had been kicked around regarding the future direction of the State Historian program. He noted that his hope was to have the group agree what the program/position would look like at this meeting and then identify specific name or names at the meeting in early May. Basically, we could either continue with the single-person State Historian model that has been followed traditionally. Alternatively, he urged that the group consider not a single individual, but rather making it something like a State Historian’s Council comprised of 3-5 recognized historians from around the State. This would have a number of advantages, including allowing HC to reach out to more institutions across the State more quickly. Following a brief presentation by Jason Hanson, the group discussed the pros and cons of both alternatives and specifically how a Council might be set up and function. On motion duly made and seconded, the Board agreed to establish a State Historian Council not to exceed 5 members, appointed with staggered 3 year terms to take effect on August 1, 2018. Musgraves asked that Turner and Hanson develop a specific proposal on how the Council would operate and identify a roster of nominees for consideration by the Board at the May meeting.
- Increasing HC Board Size - Musgraves reported that the Governor’s Office agreed to support the enlargement of the Board, but in order to keep an odd number of members, they are proposing to increase Board size by 4, making the Board 13 members.
- Election of Officers – Musgraves indicated that he would be circulating materials related to the election of Board officers sometime in May or June, as we did in 2017. He indicated that he was not planning to seek another term as Chair.
- Ute Indian Museum CPI award – Turner noted that Ute Indian Museum is receiving an award from Colorado Preservation, Inc. on May 9. HC is sponsoring a table and Board members are invited to participate. Please let Turner know if you are interested.

- Georgetown Property Sale – Turner reminded the Board of previous discussion about a small parcel of property owned by HC in Georgetown immediately behind the Hotel de Paris museum. The Colonial Dames (the owners of the Hotel de Paris) have asked HC to sell the property to the museum. The appraised value is \$34,000. We would need a statute to sell the property and keep the funds. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposal to pursue Legislation to sell this property was approved.
- IMLS Update –Turner noted that because of HC’s successful digital badge program, IMLS has asked HC to partner with them on a grant relating to improving public use of digitized museum collections.
- Turner noted that the Byers Evans has now become the Center of Colorado Women’s History and received considerable media attention in connection with the opening of the new Center.
- Financial Report - Michelle Zale gave the financial report. She pointed out that HC was currently running a net deficit of \$228,000. She believes this is simply a timing issue as the OHAP Federal grant revenue will not be collected until likely May or June. Musgraves asked if we should budget for OAHP at a different time? Zale replied that we cover the deficit by borrowing from Fund 4390, but offered to review and see if we can avoid borrowing. Finlon noted that we were in March and we’re just now reviewing January financials. She asked how long it takes to close and if there was any way to get a month closer. Zale indicated that closing occurs on the 3rd Friday of the following month and it takes 2 weeks to prepare the financial report, so it’s really not feasible to be ready with the prior month’s statements by the end of the following month.
- Grummel reviewed her financial report. It appears Philanthropy is not offsetting expenses as yet. Grummel noted that the Philanthropy team last year raised \$600,000. Thus far, and we are above \$1.2M this year. Grummel is learning more about the membership piece and is focused on unrestricted funds.

Approvals:

- Deaccession - Elisa Phelps highlighted some of the items recommended to be deaccessioned. Musgraves asked for the status of the proposed deaccession of items from the Governor’s Mansion to the Boettcher Foundation. Phelps replied that there is a draft document (to reconcile inventory records and refine language regarding future responsibility). There will be an update on this process at the next Board meeting. On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed deaccession requests were approved.

Department Reports:

- Community Museums - Dawn DiPrince provided an overview and update on the 8 properties outside of the History Colorado Center. She is working to reinvent and revitalize the Community Museums. With the additional funding received by the Community Museums this year, they have hired 8 additional people throughout the state and are still working to hire 1.5 more staff. In addition, they are promoting visits by motor coach tours nationally and internationally and that has been successful. Borderlands is opening May 4. The Treaty of Guadalupe will be on display for one month. They are investing in marketing in anticipation of the opening of the exhibit. They recently hosted a women’s studies program for scholars at the Center for Colorado Women’s History. Ft. Garland Borderlands story will showcase Indigenous people kept

in captivity. They are revising the business plan in Trinidad and creating the Rocky Mountain Center for Preservation in Leadville. Musgraves recommends that DiPrince give specific thought as to how she would plan to retain the extra hires if and when the funding situation should change.

- SHF Update - Tim Stroh presented an overview of the State Historical Fund and highlighted several SHF grant-supported projects across the state. There were 167 grants requested and 101 were awarded in the latest round. Grant amounts for 2018 totaled \$8,925,945.
- Larimer Square—Steve noted that the SHPO’s office had recently been asked to weigh in on a proposed development in Larimer Square in Denver. He understood that some members of the Board were concerned not so much by the response provided by Steve in his capacity as SHPO (which was simply that he couldn’t support the project as currently proposed), but more in the fact that it is a high-profile project and Board members could be blindsided by it. After discussion, it was decided that (1) Steve would make a concerted effort to bring to the Board’s attention SHPO action taken on any project that is likely to be high profile and (2) the Board, as a matter of general policy, will not intervene or be involved in technical preservation decisions being made by the SHPO and his staff in order to avoid turning those matters into political decisions rather than technical decisions (since Board members generally will not have the required technical expertise).
- Collections & Exhibits - Jason Hanson presented an overview of Collections and noted that they are focused on building a more inclusive collection, increasing access to the collection, and ensuring the adequacy of long-term storage. He noted that HC’s new podcast series is expected to debut sometime in the Fall of 2018. We are currently in the process of hiring someone who will be our chief storyteller for podcast purposes and will then turn to conducting interviews. Jason noted that the Exhibits team continues to focus on developing our in-house exhibit creation capacity and doing more long-range planning around an exhibit schedule. In this regard, he and Steve reviewed the current 5-year exhibit schedule with the Board.
- Strategic Planning – Turner noted that he had asked Steve Grinstead, as the Editor of Heritage Magazine, to get involved in helping the group to formulate the Mission/Vision/Values statements. Steve discussed each of those statements with the Board. The Board was generally supportive of the current formulations.
- Advisory Committee Names – Turner presented the Board with the current list of possible nominees to the proposed Advisory Committee that he hopes to develop to help with the strategic planning process (and beyond). Finlon likes the list. Musgraves wants to commit one hour on this subject at the May 2nd meeting. In preparation, Musgraves asked Turner to schedule a working session with interested Board members to review the names in detail and identify skill sets. This detailed list will be shared with the Board and will be discussed on May 2.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.