



History Colorado
Board of Directors Meeting
September 25, 2019
Minutes

The Board of Directors of History Colorado (a/k/a The Colorado Historical Society) (“HC”) met on September 25, 2019. Present were directors: Cathey Finlon, Cathy Carpenter Dea, Donna Lynne (phone), Rick Pederson, Ellen Roberts, Alan Salazar, Stephen Sturm, Chris Tetzeli, and Tamra Ward. Also in attendance: Steve Turner, Dawn DiPrince, Tonya Covarubbias, Emily Dobish, Kathi Grummel, Shannon Haliwanger, Jason Hanson, Tim Stroh, Eric Carpio, Amy Unger, and Marissa Volpe. Others in attendance: Mary Kay Kisseberth, Cathy Rosset, and Dianne Brown served as recording secretary.

Finlon called the meeting to order at 8:05am and confirmed a quorum. She thanked board members for providing names for our VIP openings.

Executive Director Update - Turner complimented staff on the following: the podcast was unveiled; we kicked off women’s history with five first in women’s political history; a lecture by Governor Lamm; Doors open Denver; the Pueblo Brewfest; and Year of La Chicana which had over 900 guests. These events resulted in contacts with 11,100 people in one week!

Legislative Activity - Turner noted that we are requesting legislative support for our Certificate of Participation (COP) in our Decision Item, because we cannot fundraise around debt. Finlon has met with various state agency leads to identify any potential funding resources. Turner also noted that we want to increase our Hands on History program to allow us to provide day five of education, especially in rural areas. He has had conversations with the Joint Budget Committee and until the Governor issues the budget, we cannot lobby members for funding. We need to tell our story in a way that relates to how this advances the Governor’s agenda of serving early schoolchildren. Roberts would like to confirm that the board doesn’t need to register as lobbyists. (It was confirmed the board doesn’t need to register as lobbyists.)

Turner is meeting with leadership of Higher Education and Community Colleges to discuss how to affiliate our community museums with colleges and universities. The Community College IT could potentially support community museums. He noted that History Colorado is going to prepare to separate from state IT, but it is at least a year and a half away.

Major Gifts Director Update - Grummel presented an update on the Major Gifts Director. She noted that \$115K was approved out of reserves for the position and events. Cheyenne Johnson raised \$785K, which is above the \$750K goal. Overall, the team raised an additional \$760K, which reflects a 583% return on investment.

Volunteer Report - Dobish presented an overview of the annual time and talents celebration. There were over 130 RSVPs. Mary Kay Kisseberth VP of Council and Docent at Governor’s Mansion reported

that the council advisory body works with Dobish, and is a team of 19 representing many areas of History Colorado. Their four goals are retention of volunteers, inclusion, skills identification and utilization, as well as communication. She presented an infographic that depicts an economic impact over \$1M, 39K volunteer hours and 716 volunteers.

Financial Report - Covarrubias distributed the new financial report, which includes previously unreported accounts such as the State Historical Fund and gifts, grants and donations. History Colorado ended the fiscal year with \$1.3M surplus in the majority share resulting from increased revenue and decreased expenses.

Finlon is concerned about the decline in membership numbers given our broader programming profile. Turner noted that we have plans for programs to provide membership to fourth graders, tied to getting their families in. We will have Membership present their strategy of increasing numbers at the November board meeting.

Period 1 budgeting should be more accurate with better forecasting. Ward likes the notes. Turner informed the board that the Chief Administrative Officer, Michelle Zale is on permanent leave and not returning. We are advertising for a new CAO and will post next week.

Deaccessions - Hanson provided an overview of the 256 items for deaccession. Many items will be transferred to the Governor's residence and others will be auctioned off. Many are little value to Colorado state history and there are many duplicates. Finlon requested a motion. Carpenter Dea motioned to approve the request, Tamra seconded, motion passed.

Centennial Farms - Stroh presented an overview of the 33rd annual Centennial Farms & Ranches celebration. There were twenty-two families inducted. The program celebrates continually owned property for 100 years and are usually a working farm or ranch. We have over 600 of these in the state. It is a wonderful celebration.

State Register Nominations - Stroh presented a brief overview of the five projects that met program criteria, which also had a State Historical Fund grant at some point. Nine properties for the state register of historic places need board approval. Finlon requested a motion. Walker motioned to approve the request, Carpenter Dea seconded, motion passed.

Diversity & Inclusion - Volpe gave an in-depth presentation on conscious bias. Carpio shared his experience with the American Alliance of Museums as concerns increasing diversity in museums. Two guests from the El Movimiento committee thanked History Colorado for continuing to work on diversity and inclusion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33am.