

**Approved- Meeting Minutes of
the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of
the Arizona Historical Society**

March 27, 2023

Mission: Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – President Linda Whitaker
2. **Roll Call** – Colleen Byron
 - a. Present- Robert Ballard, Deborah Bateman, DeNise Bauer, Colleen Byron, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Thomas Foster, Ileen Snoddy, Linda Whitaker
 - b. Absent- Jim Snitzer, Desirae Barquin
 - c. Staff- David Breeckner, Melba Davis, Carole McQueen, Kaydi Forgia, Rebekah Percival- Tabah
3. **Minutes** - Discussion and action to approve the draft Minutes of the February 27, 2023, Executive Committee meeting.
 - a. Motion- Robert Ballard
 - b. Second- Tom Foster
 - c. Unanimously approved
4. **Call to the Public** – Linda Whitaker
 - a. Kerri Rumsower- assistant to Tom Foster, no comment(s).
 - b. Gene Kunde- Finance Committee Vice Chair, reporting on behalf of Jim Snitzer.
5. **Board Updates**- Linda Whitaker
 - a. Ileen Soddy will run the State Board Meeting on Friday, March 31st. Ileen will also be joining the Finance Committee.
 - b. Unsolicited application for Coconino County has been submitted by Austin Kerr. Matt Hernando offered to reach out to him on behalf of the Board
 - c. E. Flor has resubmitted paperwork. New Board of Commissions has acknowledged the receipt of his paperwork.
6. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Reports will be provided at the March State Board meeting on Friday, 3/31/23.
7. **Arizona Architecture Foundation (AAF) letter of joint support** – David Breeckner and Linda Whitaker
 - a. Develop a small working group to meet with/work with AAF to explore the nature of proposed partnership; consideration of additional courses of action/exploration.

*Submitted for reference: AHS' response to the AAF's proposal.

- b. Conversation followed. Topics covered; the overarching goals, long-term sustainable funding and operational funding timelines. The committee requested AHS take meeting notes during small working group sessions with AAF for reporting purposes.

8. Director's Update – David Breeckner

a. Legislative Initiatives

- i. Meeting with Ben Henderson, Director of Operations for Governor Hobbes on Wednesday, 3/29/23.
- ii. Facility tour at AHC Tempe with Rep. Melody Hernandez (D, District 8) on Monday, 4/10/23.
- iii. Upcoming meeting with Ian O'Grady, Policy Advisor for Trade, Commerce, Arts, Tourism for Governor Hobbes.

b. Staffing

- i. Yanna Kruse submitted her resignation; her final day was Friday, March 17. A going-away party is being planned by YCHS to recognize her contributions to AHS and the greater Yuma community. Guest Experience has been moved under Operations and Melba Davis. The VP of Guest Experience position will be reclassified as a "museum manager" to mirror Pioneer Museum.
- ii. Following feedback from AHS staff, NAPHS, and Northern Chapter, AHS is updating its staffing structure and hiring plan for Pioneer Museum: museum manager (FTE), education specialist (PTE – 30 hours), interns (PTE – 30 hours). This is a budget-neutral change to the previous staffing proposal, and provides additional operations continuity with a second staff person.

c. Facilities

- i. Revised facility hours scheduled to go into effect no later than the first week of July. Select facilities may see updated hours sooner.
- ii. AHS libraries and archives have updated hours, now in effect: reservations accepted 10-12pm and 1-3pm (previously from 10-2pm); this provides staff an hour for lunch and to reset between appointments.
- iii. Pioneer Museum: the no-later-than date to relocate Jenny Pennington to Flagstaff is at the end of September. Efforts are being made to support her earlier relocation, including an update to the Pioneer Museum to provide on-site housing. This renovation project is awaiting the return of a feasibility estimate. An earlier full-time reopening is likely, working off a combination of the hiring of a part-time staff member and volunteer support. NAPHS has pledged their support to serve as volunteers. A start date of this opening structure is hoped for May or June 2023.

d. Chapters and Support Groups

- i. Met with NAPHS and Northern Chapter in Flagstaff on Friday, 3/24/23 to discuss continued closures and staffing at Pioneer Museum. The new museum manager, Jenny Pennington, and Kristin Rex were present and introduced. A revised timeline for reopening was developed, based on feedback from both groups and AHS' operational realities.
- ii. Met with Craig McEwan, Bill Cavaliere, and Dan Aranda on Monday, 3/20/23 to discuss concerns about AHS' mission and their perceived focus away from territorial and broad-appeal history to focus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and politically-charged topics. Items discussed included editorial focus in the *JAH* and specific exhibits at AHM Tucson and AHC Tempe. David Turpie has recently updated editorial guidelines and submission criteria for the *JAH*, and is exploring adding new, non-academic content for future issues. New and upcoming exhibits were shared and discussed, and met with a more favorable response.
- iii. Following conversations between Bruce Gwynn, Linda Whitaker, and David Breeckner, the Friends of AHS will be meeting Thursday, 3/30/23 to discuss its next steps to explore its continued role as a 501(C)3 nonprofit for donations and other, partnered support group funds, and the current standing of its Board of Directors.

e. Finance

i. Summary of recent Finance Committee meeting.

1. Following a review of monthly and scheduled quarterly and one-off expenses from February's YTD report, AHS Finance estimates an EOY total FY23 revenue of \$4.158m (down from budgeted \$4.385m). AHS Finances projects \$4.262m in EOY FY23 expenses (down from budgeted \$4.545m). It estimates a total, updated budget deficit of \$103,702 (down from original \$159,985). The impact to FY24 budget, based on current drafts of the Governor's budget, is still being reviewed.

- ii. Status of grants and reports. See "AHS Grant Tracker – 3-17-23" attached. Gene Kunde noted that there have been no federal/state grants submitted this year.

f. Exhibits

- i. Molina Block – Yanna Kruse has connected the Yuma donor (anonymous) with YCHS to oversee the transfer of \$800,000 in donated funds to them toward the Molina Block Outdoor Agriculture Exhibit. YCHS and AHS have completed the prospectus documents to solicit design-build firms for project proposals. From YCHS, this will be sent out following the donor's transfer of funds.

9. **Announcements** and other matters for consideration in future board or committee

- a. Tom Foster- Will be attending the New Mexico History Convention over the weekend and will not be able to attend the full State Board meeting on Friday, March 31, 2023.

10. **Adjournment** – 1:16 PM by Linda Whitaker

Dated this 1st day of April 2023

Arizona Historical Society



Linda Whitaker, Board President

The Arizona Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the administration of its program and services as prescribed by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter or alternative formats, by contacting AHS Administration at 520-617-1169. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.

Executive Committee Schedule: Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Click the date to register for the meeting

All meetings are live-streamed via Zoom.

[April 24, 2023](#)

[May 22, 2023](#)

[June 26, 2023](#)

[July 24, 2023](#)

[August 28, 2023](#)

[September 25, 2023](#)

[October 23, 2023](#)

[November 27, 2023](#)

[December 25, 2023](#) *Tentative

Transcript of Meeting- [March 27, 2023](#)

