



**Minutes of the  
Board of Directors of the Arizona Historical Society  
January 17, 2020  
Arizona History Museum 929 E Second St., Tucson, AZ 85719**

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

1. Call to Order – Voie Coy, President, 12 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 12 p.m. in the auditorium of the Arizona History Museum

2. Roll call (Quorum) – Robert Fleck, Development Assistant, Bruce Gwynn, Secretary of the Board

Present in Person: Joseph Abodeely, Lorna Brooks, Janice Bryson, Voie Coy, Thomas Foster, William Garbarino, Douglas Hocking, John Lacy, Leonard Marcisz, Thomas Rose, Gregory Scott, James Snitzer, Michael Wade, Linda Whitaker

Present Virtually: Bruce Gwynn, Meredith Peabody, Robert Ballard

Absent: Douglas Barlow, Robin Bradford, Kelly Corsette, Philip Horwitz, Patrick Lukens, Charles Oldham, Dennielle Patterson, Marshall Trimble

Staff Present: Bill Ponder, Kim Bittrich, David Turpie, Susan Irwin, Tawn Downs, Robert Fleck, Mel Davis, Vanessa Fajardo, Lora Key, Jaynie Adams, Trish Norman, Bill Peterson, Yanna Kruse, Eric Gonzales

3. Discussion and action, if any, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2019 meeting. Tom Rose requested a change in the Property and Buildings Committee report to state front porch work is 'on-going' and not complete. Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Snitzer seconded. All present voted to approve.

4. Call to the Public – Consideration and discussion of comments from the public. Those wishing to address the Board need not request permission in advance. Presentations will be limited to five minutes. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the rescheduling of the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

Members of the public present: Dave Faust, Tom Peterson, Vick Schwager, Jay Van Orden, Yvonne Clay

Dave Faust - Read minutes that indicated the possibility of closing Downtown museum. Presented discussion against closing. Passed out document.

Yvonne Clay - In support of Dave Foust. Suggested expanding hours during peak periods.

Vicki Schwager – Los Amigos. Thanked Jaynie for her programming efforts, and thanked Breann for her efforts to help support tours. Thanked Peter Mueller for supporting the facility. She sees problems related to new strategic plan. Created a great deal of evil. Little attention to small details of running a museum. There is no director. Impact on community. No one in charge of details. Lack of trust. Strategic plan lacks heart and soul of this museum.

Vicki – (personal thoughts) Major change in strategic direction; mission and vision statement. Original committee before hiring new ED, came up with a different vision statement. (read) Sept 11, strategic planning committee came up with new (current) vision statement. Read from strategic plan re: single brand. Entire staff reorganized. Staff turnover in a year – ‘director’, educator, exhibits, etc. Change in the way the exhibits look. Does not agree with new direction. New, young staff. Communities used to be a priority. Museum is not mentioned as a priority. Lack of trust between volunteers – experienced, older – and new, young staff does not appreciate or respect them. Could be more with the right director and direction.

Jay Van Orden - Worked at AHS from 1970. Now works as a volunteer. Worked with Dave Faust and Tom Peterson (Jay’s brother-in-law). With our experience we believe we have something to offer. Talked about Centennial celebration held at museum when Jay rode his horse into the museum building filled with objects. Helped develop policies and procedures during his tenure. Here to oppose some of the items proposed for deaccessioning, including the saddles. Asked if any board members have seen the deaccession form with reasons for deaccessioning. Referred to section regarding condition. I’m very familiar with army saddles. He asked a question of board members. John Lacy interrupted to advise that petitioning a response is inappropriate. Objects to deaccessioning any of saddles.

Doug Hocking comment – I have known Jay for many years, and this man is a treasure.

Voie Coy - Any other comments from the public?

Joe Abodeely – If we have a collection like this we should keep it and do an exhibit on it.

Comment from Vicki - New strategic plan change in the mission statement – definition is too broad. Difficult to tie to a particular thing.

## 5. President’s Report and Inquiries – President Coy. (15 min.)

Working with Lacy on development of new board member list. Coy has called the Governor’s office, and is waiting on more information. Lacy asked if he could get the information that Coy has and maybe he can help with Governor’s. Office. President appointed committee regarding chapters and membership money. Talked with Tom Rose. Went back to 1980 and found out it was a 50/50 split for \$\$ that came back from membership. \$40 went to society for printing journal; 1999 went to individual and household at \$50 and \$65 respectively. Policy still said \$40. Coy asked Tom Rose for verification. Rose: In 2007, membership was split to individual and

household at \$50 and \$65. Policy manual still says that \$40 of every membership goes to support membership and publication. Balance goes to chapters. Several groups have been discussing. Coy asked Rose, Peabody, etc. to get together to come up with a policy recommendation. Referred to Len Marcisz's observation about financial report that 60% comes from appropriations and balance from operating revenues. We need support groups to help raise funds, sell memberships. Charged staff and committee to work together to resolve. Need staff to put together a report on membership financials (numbers and \$\$) showing trend over time. Comment from Michael Wade: the report from staff will be illuminating to show change in financials. Wants to see membership numbers over 5 – 10-year time period to see trends. Garbarino – asked for agendas and minutes for the meetings that have occurred as Wade's group did not have agendas in advance and did not provide minutes. Garbarino requested to see them. Lacy said they are required.

6. Consent Agenda: (5 min.)

- a. Executive Director's / Senior Leadership Report
- b. Staff report to Collections, Archives, and Library Committee regarding deaccessioning, requested on January 7, 2020
- c. December 2019 financials
- d. Long-term Organizational Health Report

a. No discussion

b. Hocking – looking for the list of deaccessioned recommendations. It was presented in previous board meeting documents.

c. No discussion

d. Long term organizational health report. - Marcisz disagrees with one of the statements regarding facilities repairs and maintenance. We need to have staff prepare a list of things that “they can live with” vs issues that are safety issues to employees and collections. Rose agrees. Suggests need to put these things in front of the ADOA and to communicate the urgency – use the right language “safety hazard”. Abodeely – we need to sit down and get information together and have conversations with the right persons. Rose – list already exists. Ponder – list already exists. Question from Garbarino – who prepared it? Ponder: Dr. Burns. Garbarino: there is a lot of information in there that needs discussion. Coy: We will put it on the agenda for the next board meeting. Some discussion followed. Voie suggests a special meeting specifically to discuss this.

Long Term Organizational Health report redacted from consent agenda. Call for vote to approve consent agenda with removal of Long-term Organizational Health presentation. Motion by Lacy to approve the consent agenda with item 'd' removed, seconded by Bryson, approved unanimously.

7. Staff presentation about volunteer training, handbook, recruitment, and recognition - Melba Davis (10 min.)

Presentation by Mel Davis regarding volunteer training, handbook, recruitment and recognition. She reviewed training that will be required for all volunteers and answered questions.

8. Staff presentation about membership plan as requested by Governance Committee - Tawn Downs (10 min.)

Thank you from Gwynn for an outstanding job on membership. Thank you from Peabody to Downs and Coriell for a great membership effort

9. Finance Committee report, and board discussion, if any. (10 min.) - Meredith Peabody, Kim Bittrich

Peabody reviewed information in packet. No further discussion.

10. Community Outreach Committee report and board discussion and/or action, if any, regarding the report. **Note: Action Item - Certified Museums Policy** (10 min.) - Janice Bryson and Tawn Downs

Reviewed reason for developing a two-tier system for the certified museum program and differences between the two tiers. Discussion followed with a question from Abodeely. Why create a two-tiered system? Hocking – We used to print the affiliate members in Journal. What are affiliate members? Who are they? More discussion. Garbarino moved to approve proposal as presented; seconded by Linda Whitaker. All present except Abodeely voted to approve. Abodeely objected.

11. AHS System Structure - report by Joe Abodeely and board discussion, if any, regarding the report. (10 min.)

Abodeely read a memo he had prepared suggesting that we need to reduce the number of museums under AHS umbrella because we cannot support them. Supports idea that includes Arizona History Museum and Arizona Heritage Center as flagship museums. Also stated that membership fees are too high, and that we are going to run out of money. Change is needed. Discussion and comment from various members of the board. Abodeely states that a lot of money is spent in facilities maintenance; Foster replies that most facilities money is spent on Tucson and Tempe facility maintenance. More discussion and comment from various members of the board ensued. Coy asked the board if he should include this in the special meeting to review and discuss the long-term organizational health report. We should also include the discussion about AHM (in light of changing built environment – construction around the museum). Marcisz stated that everyone is trying to solve the same problem of saving resources. Wade states this issue needs to be handled properly. Coy will call a special meeting to take place in Phoenix.

12. Collections, Library & Archives Committee report on proposed deaccessions, and board discussion and/or action, if any, regarding the report. **Note: Action Item** (10 min.) - Greg Scott

Deaccessioning presentation by Bill Peterson. Discussion and questions followed. Greg Scott requested a call for a vote. Lacy asked about the reasoning for the deaccession of Uranium minerals. Whitaker stated that other museums can exhibit minerals better than us. Coy asked the room if there is a way to keep the saddles within the State; Scott clarified what is happening with the saddles. Lacy made a point that there should be more information about items that are being deaccessioned. Snitzer adds to discussion that a museum cannot represent everything. Abodeely stated that the Arizona Military Museum is willing to take the saddles. (Recommendation from the committee to approve the deaccessioning of the presented items. All present voted to approve.

13. Governance Committee report on policies, and board discussion and/or action, if any, regarding the report. **Note: Action Item - Veterans Admission Policy (10 min.)** - William Garbarino

Whitaker presented the proposal regarding the veterans admission policy. Policy provides free admission to active retired veterans. Suggestion from Snitzer to promote with veterans. More discussion. Abodeely called for question. Recommendation from the committee to approve the veterans admission policy as presented. All present voted to approve.

14. Sunset review report and board discussion and/or action, if any, regarding AHS Arizona Auditor General's Report #1313. (10 minutes) - Leonard Marcisz and Linda Whitaker

Marcisz and Whitaker reviewed report in board packet. No discussion.

15. American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation report and board discussion and/or action if any. (10 minutes) - Leonard Marcisz and Linda Whitaker

Marcisz and Whitaker reviewed report in board packet. No discussion.

16. Property and Building Committee report and board discussion and/or action, if any, regarding the report. (10 min.) - Tom Rose

Rose encourages geographic locations to use local contractors when possible. No discussion.

17. Announcements and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings. (10 min.)

Lacy – Don't forget History Convention April 16 – 18. Theme is women's suffrage. Abodeely - AZ Military Museum open house March 29. Coy - Correction on April board meeting date – should be April 17. Coy thanked board members, committee members. Snitzer handed out AHS coasters to Board members.



2020 AHS Board meeting dates and locations:

January 17, 2020 - Arizona History Museum, Tucson

March 20, 2020 - Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe

April 17, 2020 - Casino del Sol, Tucson

June 19, 2020 - Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe

August 14, 2020 - Flagstaff (Location to be determined)

October 23, 2020 -Yuma (Location to be determined)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January 2020

Arizona Historical Society

*Robert Fleck*

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Robert Fleck, Development Assistant