



**Minutes of the
Board of Directors of the Arizona Historical Society
Friday, June 19, 2020
Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N College Ave. Tempe, AZ 85281**

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

1. Call to Order – Voie Coy 12:00 p.m.

2. Roll call (Quorum) – Robert Fleck

Roll Call

Present in person: Voie Coy, Meredith Peabody, Jim Snitzer, Bruce Gwynn, Kelly Corsette, Linda Whitaker, Leonard Marcisz, Joseph Abodeely, Douglas Hocking, Janice Bryson, Thomas Foster, Michael Wade

Present electronically: Greg Scott, Lorna Brooks, Robert Ballard, William Garbarino, Thomas Rose, John Lacy

Absent: Marshall Trimble, Charles Oldham, Patrick Lukens, Robin Bradford, Douglas Barlow, Jeff Horwitz, Dolly Patterson

Staff present in person: James Burns, Tawn Downs, Bill Ponder, Kim Bittrich, Melba Davis, Eric Gonzales, Marilyn Murphy, Debbie McKinion, David Turpie

Staff present virtually: Yanna Kruse

Guests and members of the public: Tuesday Elias, George McNelly, Clarie Nullmeyer, Historical League President Elect, Nina Filippi, Historical League, Margaret Baker, Historical League, Zona Lorig, Historical League, Anne Lupica, Historical League, Mary Parker, Historical League, Nancy Evans, Historical League

3. Approval of minutes of the January 17, 2020 board meeting. Bruce Gwynn moved to accept the minutes as presented; Joe Abodeely seconded. Leonard Marcisz asked that Tom Peterson's name be removed from the list of members of the public present at the meeting as he was not there in person. All voted to approved the minutes as amended.

4. Call to the Public –

Members of the Historical League spoke in support of Linda Whitaker for President of AHS Board

- Claire Nullmeyer, President Elect, on behalf of herself and Susan Dale, President of Historical League

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.

- Zona Lorig
- Nina Filippi

5. Summary of Current Events – President Coy ceded his time to the organizational health presentation.

6. Finance Committee Report – Peabody ceded her time to the organizational health presentation.

7. Consent Agenda - Executive Director's / Senior Leadership Report and May 2020 financials. Len Marcisz moved, Doug Hocking seconded. All voted to accept the consent agenda as presented.

8. Outreach Committee Report – Committee recommendations:

- Al Merito: Recommendation is Delia Munoz as individual awardee and Superstition Mountain Historical Society as organization awardee – Approved by all.
- Recommend approval of 5 new Certified Historical Institution – Approved by all.

9. Nominating Committee Report

Jim Snitzer presented a slate of proposed officers as follows:

- President: William Garbarino
- VP: Kelly Corsette
- Treasurer: Bruce Gwynn
- Secretary: Jim Snitzer

Leonard Marcisz moved that Linda Whitaker (Tucson) be nominated for the position of AHS President; Bruce Gwynn seconded. Discussion ensued about policies and bylaws relative to presenting more than one candidate for an office. Governance Committee advises that the board can put forth more than one candidate on the slate for the same office. Mr. Garbarino and Ms. Whitaker were each asked to speak about their view of AHS' direction.

Garbarino - Urged by friends to run. Feels like AHS has been going in the wrong direction for the past year. Deterioration of support groups. Would like to see local directors back in each location. Wants to see a bigger role for Northern.

Whitaker: Has a more optimistic view. COVID is changing a lot of things. Statewide view – AHS is a statewide agency. Changes that have happened over the last 18 months happened very fast. These can be ameliorated. But things will not ever go back to the way they were. Concerned with sustainability, viability. We have to change. She reported that feedback from ADOA and HR is that they agree with the changes we making. More change is ahead, and we can manage it.

Question from Abodeely: What do you each think about the future of AHS and maybe reducing the financial obligations of the organization?

Garbarino – We need more local support and local influence, community basis. Need to move away from a centralized organization. Consider closing facilities that have high maintenance costs, such as the Arizona Heritage Center

Whitaker – You can balance a state agency’s mandate and honoring local history.

Question from Lorna Brooks: Can Linda work with the legislature?

Whitaker: We have to engage with the Legislature in a whole new way.

Garbarino: Agreed with Linda.

Snitzer made a call to the board for volunteers to assist on the Nominating Committee.

Motion by Bruce Gwynn to add Linda Whitaker’s name to the slate for President; Garbarino seconded. All voted to approve.

10. AHS Financial Health 2000 – 2020

AHS staff gave a presentation about the health of the agency over the past 20 years. The presentation covered budget trends, fundraising efforts, staffing levels and costs, the impacts of financial atrophy over the years, facilities, risk management, and strategies to achieve sustainability. Question and answer followed the presentation. Recommendations for short, mid, and long-term strategies to address sustainability and viability issues for the organization were discussed. Staff expressed their concern over the three things that they see most imperil cultural organizations today: a) irrelevancy b) the inability to adapt to changing demographics and c) unsustainable expectations. To interest and be relevant to younger audiences we have to include recent history, and we have to make sure that audiences of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities see themselves in AHS. Abodeely asked the staff how the board could assist them. Several staff members present spoke, generally expressing that they need the board to work in partnership with the staff, to respect their expertise and be willing to adapt to save the organization.

11. Announcements and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings.

Tawn Downs reminded everyone of the Night at the Museum virtual event tonight at 6:30 pm. It is a Zoom presentation and discussion on Flagstaff’s Women of Resilience.



Coy reminded everyone of the Annual Membership Meeting on June 30, which will be preceded by a board meeting. Both meetings will be virtual.

2020 AHS Board meeting dates and locations:

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:33

Arizona Historical Society

Robert Fleck

Robert Fleck Development Associate