

**Minutes of Meeting
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society
Friday, October 23, 2020
Steele Auditorium, Arizona Heritage Center, Tempe and Virtual**

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

Minutes

Call to Order – President Linda Whitaker at 12:04

Roll Call – Executive Director, James Burns

Board members present virtually: Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer, Lorna Brooks, Colleen Byron, Kelly Corsette, Tom Foster, Bruce Gwynn, Sharon Holnback, John Lacy, Greg Scott, Linda Whitaker / Board members present at the Heritage Center: Janice Bryson, Voie Coy, Tom Rose, Jim Snitzer, Michael Wade / Staff present in person: Tawn Downs, Robert Fleck, Marilyn Murphy / Staff present virtually: James Burns, Bill Ponder, Kim Bittrich, Rebekah Tabah, David Turpie, Yanna Kruse

Discussion and action, if any, to **approve the draft Minutes** of the August 14, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by John Lacy; seconded by Greg Scott; unanimously approved.

Call to the Public – Explanation of rules of engagement for public comment. Consideration and discussion of comments from the public. Members of the public wishing to address the Board should identify their interest at this time via the chat box. Those wishing to address an item on the agenda will be called upon when that item is being discussed and given up to five minutes. Those wishing to address an item not on the agenda will be allowed up to three minutes. Such items may not be discussed by the Board but may be directed to Staff for study and consideration at a later date.

No members of the public present in the Steele Auditorium or virtually wished to speak about a non-agendized item.

Summary of Current Events – Brief summary of current events by the Board Chair, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K). The Board will not discuss, or act on, any current event summary. –Whitaker.

The Executive Committee and Finance Committee met this week, and minutes are posted on the website. Please see those minutes as both committees are active.

Executive Director Summary – Summary of written report submitted to board with update on goals, initiatives, opportunities, communications – Burns

Accreditation Committee – James and Kim Bittrich co-chair. Oct 30 is deadline for submitting self-study documents and we are on track to meet the deadline
Reminder that we are seeking accreditation for 4 properties
Sunset Review and Performance Audit task force is being reactivated. Byron and Whitaker members; will meet with Burns regularly to update tracking document.

Submitted lengthy leadership report

Tracking strategic planning progress – will discuss preferred format for reporting at the January board meeting for feedback

Reopened AHM and AHC. Reopening plan approved by Governor's Office and Arizona Department of Health Services.

Thanks to Jim Snitzer for leading Finance Committee, and his committee members. Members announced, including Greg Scott, Jim Straight, Benefit & Financials Services, Flagstaff, Dave Lyons, National Bank of Arizona, Tucson, Deborah Bateman, National Bank of Arizona Phoenix, Sandy Navarette, National Bank of Arizona, Yuma, and Shawn Moreton, Bank of America.

Fundraising activity resulted in renewal of a \$10,000 gift from a family foundation.

Shout-out to Bill Ponder, Vanessa Fajardo and David Turpie for a recent meeting with Pathfinders support group in Tucson. The meeting was positive, with staff and Pathfinders board members grateful for the opportunity to talk and to renew their shared commitment to achieving mutual missions.

Employee satisfaction survey results complete and included in the board packet.

Question from Whitaker: Comparing last years against this year, can you provide an analysis/summary of the results?

Employee engagement was 5% above State average. Engagement significantly above last year

Satisfaction improved 24% over last year

Bill Ponder – Spoke to narrative, employee comments. Employees on the whole have embraced the goals and strategies for the organization.

Kim Bittrich – Employees much more satisfied with their jobs and the direction of the agency

Linda – any feedback on the boards or support groups?

James – Will connect with ADOA HR about how to handle this portion of the survey feedback

Warm welcome to our 3 new board members – DeNise Bauer, Sharon Holnback and Colleen Byron

AHS Board Health

Whitaker invited each new board member to introduce themselves. Each did a short introduction.

Whitaker: we currently have 9 board openings. It appears that the Governor's office may appoint members in batches and that we could see more appointments before the end of the year.

Corsette reported that his committee is drafting a by-law change for nominations and voting. Meeting in the next 2 weeks and expect to have something to present at the next board meeting.

Sunset Review and Performance Audit

Whitaker reported that this was covered in Burns' report.

Treasurer's Report. – Jim Snitzer, Bill Ponder, Kim Bittrich

Instructed the board to look through their packet for top level overview through September 2020. It is an attempt to simplify the presentation of financials.

Walked through the report and explained the dire financial situation for the agency. It is a call to action. We need to do something. Burn rate right now points to shut-down in 2022 due to lack of money.

Roles and responsibility of the Finance Committee. Instructed the board to please be aware of this. Sees the role of the committee to take complicated financial issues to the board in an understandable and easily digestible format. The bylaws don't really specify responsibilities of the finance committee and the treasurer; need to be amended. Role is to try to take complicated issues, simplify them truthfully, and speak to those issues to the board in a way that the information can be easily digested.

Spoke to sunset review and performance audit and what he perceives to be the danger zone:

- Fundraising
- MOU's
- Chapters

Sunset audit and performance review – AHS responded and the board considers many issues closed, but it is clear that the Auditor General does not consider AHS fully responsive. That has led to an unfavorable view of AHS by the legislature and a reduction in state funding. Need to address fundraising, MOU's and the Chapters.

Snitzer: Review of cost of state employees v. temporary workers v. volunteers from packet. Temporary employees typically cost much less than state employees due to cost of ERE. This was in response to a presentation by a member of the public at the last board meeting – a false allegation that temporary staff members cost more than a state employee. State employee burden rates are 45%; that % is only 26% for temporary workers. Staff people cost quite a bit more. Volunteers are not free – recruitment, training, and especially supervision.

Snitzer: AHS annual membership meeting should be held shortly after the fiscal year close and upon issuance of the annual report. Proposed the meeting be held as soon as the report can be prepared, but no later than Sept. 30.

- Recommendation by the Finance committee to change annual membership meeting.

- Call for the question by Voie Coy

- John Lacy commented – historically AHS has had an issue with attendance at the annual meeting. For a long time the meeting occurred in November to coincide with UofA homecoming. It was later changed to coincide with the History Convention, which appeared to have resulted in greater attendance. He expressed concerns about moving it to another time when it might not be as well attended and not get the same level of attention.

- History Convention April 22 – 24th, 2021. 2022 Convention will be in NM due to partnership with NM Historical Society.

- Call for the Vote

- Ballard – yes

Bauer – abstain
Brooks – no
Bryson – yes
Bryon – yes
Corsette – yes
Coy - no
Foster – yes
Gwynn - yes
Holback – yes
Lacy – no, need to figure out how to get more attendance
Rose – no
Scott – yes
Snitzer – yes
Wade – no
Whitaker – yes

Motion passed with 9 yes votes, 5 no votes, and 1 abstain

Snitzer read a recommendation contained in the packet, unanimously approved by the Finance Committee regarding memorandums of understanding and agreements for the operation of the Downtown History Museum, Fort Lowell, and Riordan Mansion State Park. Information provided in relation to Item 11 below.

Recommendation read: “The Finance Committee recommends that AHS officially notify the MOU's as soon as possible that AHS can no longer support the MOU's and will be ending the relationship. Exact timing should be left up to Staff. AHS should not enter into such arrangements in the future. The limited operational resources should be focused on managing collections and operations on AHS-owned properties.

Deborah Bateman – Member of AHS Finance committee and member of Friends of AHS Inc. board spoke. Friends is evolving into a statewide development organization. Expressed support for earmarking the \$1.6 million bequest to use it to help drive the capital campaign and raise the funds needed to sustain AHS. Think of these monies as an investment in AHS’ future, and not as a way to shore up the finances and offset the burn rate.

Bateman testimony: My name is Deborah Bateman. I am a third generation Arizonan. I am a 50 year Career Banker/ Currently Vice Chairman @ NBAZ (which is a Community Bank with a statewide footprint). Today, I want to appeal to you as a career banker, a member of the finance committee and a member of Friends of AHS. Friends, under the leadership of Bruce Gwynn, is an organization that is currently evolving into a state-wide development organization on behalf of the Arizona Historical Society. I want to stress my belief and conviction in the Finance Committee’s recommendation to earmark the recent \$1.6MM windfall to efforts to raise capital for AHS. It is my firm belief that this action will not only retain the mission of AHS - but will fully embrace and enhance our ability to carry out our mission. My belief is reinforced by my business background and experience that this action is focused on the long-term strategy to raise material new capital - that will insure our sustainability, viability, and impact. I believe that this action is groundbreaking and will create the opportunities for AHS to make a material

impact not only within our state - but also nationally, and perhaps even globally. The impacts could include the enhancement of the perception, impacts, the contributions, and the legacy of our State. My bottomline: I want to encourage you to think of these monies as an investment in our future, an investment that could net a return much greater than the initial windfall - and not as a contingency fund to shore up “the burn-rate” that Mr. Snitzer referred to earlier.

Snitzer reported on the Finance Committee’s unanimous recommendation regarding an unexpected windfall to AHS. No second needed for discussion. Recommendation: Direct staff to contract for fundraising services with the funds realized from this bequest. AHS sold a donated piece of land for \$1.6 million. This is our “lottery windfall”. Encouraged use of these funds to make new money and not to continue sinking it into operations.

Gwynn reported that Friends has been working with Bateman and staff to launch a capital campaign. Need funds to prime the pump. Campaign will take care of endowments and infrastructure. Whitaker pointed out that the Auditor General had a finding directing AHS to raise funds. Gwynn talked about new board members aimed at fundraising. Whitaker sees a future for AHS and a vote of confidence. Rose asked if the bequest was restricted in any way. Burns responded no. Lacy expressed support. Snitzer commended the board for taking action.

Motion on the floor from a Finance Committee recommendation to direct staff to contract for fundraising services using these funds.

Gwynn – voiced support for the motion. We need money to make money.

Wade – inclined to support this. Question – do you know of any other state agencies who have raised money in this manner?

Burns – Examples are History Colorado, Idaho State Historical Society and Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

Lacy – Universities in the State of AZ are raising funds all the time

Whitaker – reminder that sunset review results indicated a need for fundraising.

Gwynn – Friends Board is aimed at success

Rose – Are we encouraging donors to donate through Friends instead of AHS?

Burns – Yes. Rose – what about a planned giving program in conjunction with a lawyer? Burns – yes, we are having conversations now.

Lacy – Encourages approval of this action.

Voice vote:

Ballard - yes

Bauer - yes

Brooks - yes

Bryson - yes

Byron - yes

Corsette - yes

Coy - yes

Foster - yes

Gwynn - yes

Holnback - yes

Lacy - yes

Rose - yes

Scott - yes
Snitzer - yes
Wade - yes
Whitaker - yes
Motion unanimously passed

Snitzer discussed the role of AHS chapter boards and 1107 funds. Review of documents from packet. The Finance Committee recommends eliminating revenue sharing with Chapters. Reminded Board of Sunset Review findings and recommendation to eliminate chapters and revenue sharing. It's an old and obvious problem that has to be handled. Read conclusions and recommendation from the board packet. No action at this meeting is requested. The Chapter system, created 50 years ago, is outmoded and nobody is living up to the agreements.

Action:

Lacy moved to un-table August 14, 2020 motion that tabled discussion and action regarding Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements for non-AHS owned properties (Downtown History Museum, Fort Lowell, and Riordan Mansion State Park.

Seconded by Whitaker

Voice vote

Ballard - yes
Bauer - yes
Brooks - yes
Bryson - yes
Byron - yes
Corsette - yes
Coy - yes
Foster - yes
Gwynn - yes
Holnback - yes
Lacy - yes
Rose - yes
Scott - yes
Snitzer - yes
Wade - yes
Whitaker - yes
Motion unanimously passed

Action: Discussion and action on Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements for non-AHS owned properties.

Call to the public for comment: (see full chat below the minutes):

Lisa Schnebly – Wrote in chat: Implore groups to find ways to support the continuation of Riordan's valuable history

Karen Clark – Supports continued operation of Riordan Mansion

Sybil Smith – Supports Karen's comment. Added comment in chat. Encourages finding a solution to keep Riordan open, whether through State Parks or another organization.

Kristen – Hopes that a way can be found to keep Riordan open

Duffie Westheimer – comment in chat

Frank Flasch – Re Tucson properties. Realizes that this is a financially based decision. Hope AHS can participate in solutions to keep these properties open.

Zachary Norris – Young person just out of high school spoke about the importance of Riordan in his childhood.

Janice Klein – representing Museum Association of Arizona. Comment in chat. Should AHS vote in favor of dissolution of agreements, MAA urges all parties to develop a transition plan for each of the sites.

Gwynn – spoke about transition of the Yuma Territorial Prison to the City of Yuma and offered to provide insight into how that was accomplished.

Eileen Gannon (Riordan family) – Re: Riordan. Made positive comments about Nikki Lober and her value.

Gwen Groth – founding member of RAN and tour guide. Gave overview of RAN and NAPHS. Read prepared statement (below).

Beyond this vote, whether you discontinue operating Riordan Mansion or not, you have to work on rebuilding relationships. The lack of communication surrounding the dissolution of the operating agreements and the blatant misrepresentation of facts has deeply damaged partnerships. I have worked in the nonprofit sector my entire career and never have I ever seen such a disregard and lack of respect for friends groups, volunteers and board members.

It wasn't always this way. In Flagstaff especially, we had an incredible team with great community reach that was felt throughout the AHS system.

Since 2018, there has been no sense of collaboration or partnership and the transparency has disappeared. What was once a great team effort suddenly feels like "us vs. them." It makes no sense. When you have a network of people with skills, knowledge, passion and willingness, you don't turn your shoulder to them. You embrace them.

And you still have Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff and a great group of people supporting it. Please mend those relationships.

Volunteers, board members and friends groups serve many purposes. We are the connection to the community and can attract visitors and donors. In fact, each one of us is a potential legacy donor – or at least we were. It is a known fact that people who are active as volunteers frequently leave a planned gift to that organization. That is, if they are treated properly.

We will continue to have passion for our history and our communities but we will wait to see if our passion is renewed for AHS.

Gwen Groth
Flagstaff Native
4th Generation Arizonan
Founding member of the Riordan Action Network
Current member of the Arizona Historical Society

Charlotte Madden – president of NAPHS and 10 yr docent at Riordan. Read prepared statement advocating for maintaining good relationships with stakeholders and continuing to collaborate with whatever organization runs Riordan Mansion in the future.

Voie Coy read a prepared statement from Dr. Margie White, AHS member re: Riordan.

“I became a member of the Arizona Historical Society out of thankfulness for their rescue of Riordan Mansion Historic Park. I had the feeling then that there was a deep understanding of the value of the story of the pioneers of Flagstaff, and the importance of preserving a mansion that is unique in the world (as I know, having traveled, like many, far and wide). This is the reason I have chosen for more than ten years to volunteer my time at Riordan Mansion. In fact, I frequently on my tours have actively praised the Arizona Historical Society for the way they had saved the Mansion, and I know there were some folks who became members of AHS due to the good work that was so evident here in Flagstaff.

However, I have been intensely disappointed at the recent uncaring attitude of AHS towards Historic Treasures in Northern Arizona, the Riordan Mansion in particular. There has been a very dismissive attitude, and a lack of creativity regarding the survival of this precious relic. As an example of the opposite attitude unlike AHS, Lowell Observatory has come up with creative ways to manage to remain open, and the Museum of Northern Arizona has also managed to remain open. And now AHS is actually talking about letting Riordan Mansion go completely, without ever having given it a chance to figure out events that might keep it afloat. For shame. My reaction is that if AHS is so careless of Riordan Mansion, I will be equally careless of AHS and will not renew my own membership in AHS, and I will encourage others to drop that membership as well. I sincerely hope that Riordan Mansion continues to be open to the public, with or without AHS. My support will go to the agency that operates the historic home.”

Foster (board member) spoke next: Noted dissonance of comments about no communication and his experience in knowing the number of attempts to contact various individuals with the owners but without response.

Coy – There may be shared blame with lack of communication. But feels like the burden of responsibility is on the organization making the change.

Director Broscheid, AZ State Parks. Notified in July of potential board action from RAN thru AHS executive committee agenda item.

Response from Ponder. Had been putting in calls to State Parks before the meeting to discuss the matter, that went unanswered. Then began discussions through State Parks administrators.

Corsette – If the Board approves the action, what happens next?

Burns – we have been contacted by 3 different groups about interest in partnering with the City of Tucson to operate the Ft Lowell property, and have put those parties in touch with the owners. Just found out that Wells Fargo is vacating the entire Downtown building. We have no authority to negotiate a

new agreement for another entity to operate the property/ that must be negotiated directly with owners.

Lacy – could we get specifics about conversations with City of Tucson

Ponder spoke with a number of individuals at City of Tucson and they acknowledge the discussion and our intent, but have not offered any plans or solutions. Have put them in contact with interested parties.

Coy – Has a problem with the fact that the persons affected are not wanting to continue with AHS.

Rose – Clarify: AHS doesn't have enough money to continue to operate these properties. What are we going to do to help them affect transfer?

- 12:10:15 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : I am a first time attendee and don't see Riordan on the agenda; I simply want to indicate my support and desire that it be budgeted and cared for.
- 12:10:31 From Arizona Historical Society : Lisa - it is 11c
- 12:10:39 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : Thank you!
- 12:11:13 From Kristin Whitten Liszewski : I'm here for the same reason as Lisa; thanks for the info!
- 12:12:05 From Arizona Historical Society : You're welcome, Kristin.
- 12:12:09 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : Kristen, glad it helped.
- 12:12:16 From Arizona Historical Society : Would anyone like to talk about a non-agendized item?
- 12:17:58 From Karen Malis-Clark : Re: Item 11c Riordan Mansion SHP MOU/IGA. Riordan Mansion SHP has served as a community gathering place for programs that reflect and emphasize our local sense of place, history and community identity. These sorts of activities celebrate and sustain the intent of the Riordan brothers and their contemporaries to build community in Flagstaff. I support the continued operation of Riordan Mansion State Historic Park.
- 12:18:43 From Karen Malis-Clark : From Karen Malis-Clark, longtime Flagstaff resident, retired US Forest Service.
- 12:20:45 From Colleen Byron, State Board Member, At-large : I am new to the board, but I am on two other finance committees. I cannot adequately express how impressed I am by this finance committee's work.
- 12:22:16 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : To clarify: I do want to speak before IIC.
- 12:26:58 From Arizona Historical Society : Understood, Lisa.
- 12:32:56 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : Welcome everyone!!!
- 12:45:12 From Arizona Historical Society : Would anyone like to speak to 9a through 9i ?
- 12:45:35 From Deborah Bateman : This is Deborah Bateman, and I would like to speak to 9 H
- 12:45:42 From Janice Klein : Janice Klein on behalf of the Museum Association of Arizona
- 13:08:02 From Sybil Smith : RE Item 11c Riordan Mansion SHP MOU/IGA. Riordan Mansion SHP, I support the continuation of Riordan Mansion State Park. It is a gathering place for so many wonderful events available to the community. It is a unique venue that reminds us of Flagstaff's past and the Mansion's place in our history. Sybil Smith 42 year resident

13:08:29 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Sybil. Your feedback will be added to the minutes.

13:09:04 From Kristin Whitten Liszewski : I would also like to comment on 11C to advocate for the continued operation of the Riordan Mansion. I've been a volunteer tour guide at Riordan since 2017, and am currently employed with AZ State Parks and trails. I want to testify to the enormous significance of the mansion to both the local community and Arizona as a whole.

13:10:23 From Desirae Barquin : In regards to temp workers- while they may be cheaper short term, they have no investment in the mission or organization.

13:16:54 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Kristin. Your feedback will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

13:21:04 From Frank Flasch : What is the cost to run the Fort Lowell Museum - did not hear it

13:21:40 From Arizona Historical Society : Currently, with all of our expenses / staff removed about \$250 a month. That's for a closed facility.

13:23:25 From Frank Flasch : What about an open facility?

13:23:50 From Arizona Historical Society : Frank, roughly \$50,000 per year.

13:24:35 From Frank Flasch : Thanks

13:25:00 From Arizona Historical Society : You're most welcome.

13:30:35 From Duffie Westheimer : Riordan Mansion has been a State and local asset since donated to Arizona by the Riordan family. Professional staff and volunteers have made the facility available for educational and aesthetic/architectural purposes as well as for training NAU students in professional museum work, public history, and historic preservation. Whoever is responsible for and manages the facility please be aware of the need to continue the benefits this facility provides to residents and visitors. It is my hope that State Parks and AHS will allow for and encourage cooperation between Riordan Mansion and Pioneer Museum as was recently so successfully done. Flagstaff may be far from the decision makers, but our history is as important to overall state history as is everywhere else in Arizona.

13:31:15 From John Lacy : The universities are state agencies and they have run these campaigns regularly.

13:31:36 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Duffie. Your comments will be recorded in the minutes.

13:33:19 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : I had hoped comments from the public would be better supported in that they could have been made sooner; I am unable to wait any longer and will leave my comment here. As a member of the Arizona Historical League, it was my honor to volunteer to create copy for the second edition of "Tasted and Treasures," which continues to generate revenue for AHS. As an author, I also wrote the official book for the Arizona Centennial, "Arizona: 100 Years Grand." That book contained 100 significant aspects of Arizona. Riordan House was one. Northern Arizona holds much of the beauty and historical significance of our state, and draws millions of tourists which contribute millions of dollars to state coffers annually. However, since they lack the population density of central and southern Arizona, Northern Arizona lacks financial muscle in most arenas. While it's been made abundantly clear that the MOU is going away, I would implore this group to attempt to think creatively about Riordan; (continue in next block)

13:34:31 From Lisa Schnebly Heidinger : to remain open to proposals to perhaps at least contribute some support to Riordan's future. It breaks my heart to see this unfolding, and I hope that the AHS will be part of efforts to preserve and share valuable Northern Arizona history by lending support in any way feasible in the future. Thank you.

13:36:02 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Lisa. Your recommendation / comments will absolutely be added to the minutes of the meeting.

13:52:44 From Sybil Smith : I do not need to speak. My comment is written above. Please include in the record. Thank you.

13:53:04 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Sybil.

13:54:09 From Arizona Historical Society : Anyone else who would like to speak, please make that request via the chat box.

13:54:22 From Arizona Historical Society : Or, you may leave your comment in the chat box and it will be captured for the minutes.

13:56:04 From Frank Flasch : Realizing that the termination MOU's for the 3 non-AHS facilities is a tough but apparently financial reality based decision, I would hope that AHS would be willing to work with the landlords and any other groups who have an interest keeping the Downtown History Museum and the Fort Lowell Museum to see what can be done to keep these museums open under some other arrangement. Thank you - Frank Flasch

13:56:52 From Zachary Norris : if possible I would like to speak as well about riordan in flagstaff AZ

13:57:18 From Arizona Historical Society : OK, Zachary. You'll be after Frank.

13:58:17 From Eileen Gannon : Whether AHS votes to sever the contract or not, my concern is the protection and continued functioning of Riordan and I want to acknowledge the value of Nikki Lober as our Ranger on site.

13:59:27 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you very much, Mrs. Gannon. Duly noted. Nikki has been a valued Parks staffer for more than two decades!

14:00:02 From Arizona Historical Society : Thanks, Zachary, you, like my own students, inspire me and give me hope for the future!

14:00:29 From Janice Klein : On behalf of the Museum Association of Arizona Board: Should the Arizona Historical Society Board vote in favor of dissolving the agreements between AHS and the Downtown History Museum, Fort Lowell Museum, and Riordan Mansion, the Museum Association of Arizona urges all of the concerned parties, including AHS to work together to develop transition plans for each of the sites. MAA is ready to assist in any way we can.

14:00:39 From Kelly Corsette : Bravo, Zachary - thank you for spending the time.

14:00:49 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : Thanks Zachary!!!

14:00:56 From Karen Malis-Clark : Kudos Zachary Norris.

14:02:01 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Janice.

14:02:18 From Sybil Smith : Thank you, Zachary! Perhaps there is a collaboration opportunity with NAU and the City.

14:03:24 From Frank Flasch : Bruce great comments and would welcome your thoughts on how you did it.

14:03:56 From Arizona Historical Society : I can connect the two of you, Frank!

14:05:04 From Karen Malis-Clark : Flagstaff LOVES Nikki Lober!

14:05:08 From Bob Broscheid : Arizona State Parks and Trails still owns both Yuma properties. They are operated by the city of Yuma under an MOU similar to Riordan Mansion.

14:05:41 From Marilyn Ruggles : Eileen Gannon is a Riordan descendent. There is at least one other descendent in attendance.

14:09:32 From Arizona Historical Society : The \$17,000 includes all of the staff positions that are empty. Thank you for pointing out the issue with the wording.

14:09:39 From Arizona Historical Society : The three positions that are vacant that is.

14:13:31 From Tom Moulton : We understand the very difficult time AHS is experiencing and has been experiencing prior to COVID-19 pandemic, especially when it comes to operating capital. The Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance was founded with AHS museums in southern Arizona in 1998 as not only charter and long time members, but also part of the governance for almost all of the 22 years the organization has been helping to market the attractions. We stand ready to assist AHS and any organization that may step forward to keep these fine museums in Tucson open to the public. We thank you for your continuous support through staff members Eric Gonzales, Debbie McKinion and leadership team including Director James. Tom Moulton, Executive Director & Co-Founder of the Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance, a non-profit organization, whose mission is to enhance the awareness of southern Arizona attractions, both private and public.

14:13:54 From Frank Flasch : I think Linda's comments on notification are right on. Again tough decisions but better notification and improving the relationship should be a goal for the future.

14:15:17 From Karen Malis-Clark : Yeah Charlotte!

14:16:03 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Gwen, Charlotte, and Frank.

14:24:23 From Arizona Historical Society : This is reflected in Executive, Finance, and Board Meeting minutes between July 2020 and October 2020, Tom. They can be found here:

14:24:44 From Arizona Historical Society : <https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/state-board-directors/#meeting>

14:29:14 From Bob Broscheid : I'll respond to that request of the Chair

14:29:19 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Bob.

14:29:46 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : Thanks James.

14:29:54 From Arizona Historical Society : You're welcome, Tom.

14:29:56 From Frank Flasch : Thomas - It is not surprising that you did not get info or contact from the groups impacted with the terminations. Just so you know the only way the Old Fort Lowell Neighborhood Association heard about the terminations was from a news report from the Flagstaff newspaper that was sent to us by a person who has homes both in Flagstaff and Tucson. As critical as these issues are I would recommend that notifications in local newspapers be part of the communication. You are right it is a tough environment and you are not going to get responses thru normal means. Again I hope that you think about this in the future.

14:30:55 From Susan Irwin : I'd like to hear how these individuals would solve the problem. If AHS does not survive the next year, how does it help Riordan, Ft. Lowell?

14:31:07 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : Thanks for your input Frank.

14:32:07 From Arizona Historical Society : I think the connection is fading in and out.

14:35:28 From Frank Flasch : Susan Irwin: Not questioning the need for change to the financial situation for AHS. The question is really communication early enough that groups can respond. Not only do we want these facilities to survive but we want AHS to survive.

14:35:51 From yvonne clay : The Tucson Presidio Museum has had a conversation with AHS about the Downtown Museum and taking over the museum. AHS is waiting to hear from Wells Fargo before we can have further discussions.

14:36:11 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Yvonne. We've met with at least three groups in Tucson.

14:40:14 From Arizona Historical Society : Frank - I will connect you and Yvonne

14:40:41 From Marilyn Ruggles : Thank you Gwen, Charlotte, and all of you who support Riordan Mansion State Historical Park. Riordan Mansion survived 2010, and it will survive 2020 and prosper! Good luck AHS. So what's wrong with talking to AZ State Parks & Trails?

14:40:42 From Frank Flasch : Thanks
14:44:15 From Frank Flasch : Bill - the city has had a meeting with the interested parties and Paul Cunningham wants to move forward. I will contact Paul's office to see where that stands. Please call me after this meeting
14:44:36 From Susan Irwin : At what point does action on the MOUs become moot? When do the MOUs end?
14:44:58 From Marilyn Ruggles : Has AZ State Parks & Trails been silent? At the Aug. meeting, someone from ASP & T said that the agency had contacted AHS. Is that not true?
14:45:37 From Karen Malis-Clark : For the City of Flagstaff, please contact Heidi Hansen; she would like more info about the status of Riordan State Park.
14:45:52 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Karen. Recorded.
14:55:27 From Arizona Historical Society : "Not an easy vote or without a sense of loss and sadness."
14:56:29 From Frank Flasch : Not an easy vote to hear as well
14:57:54 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : There was no joy in this. Reality , sometimes,
14:58:08 From Arizona Historical Society : It's heartbreaking for us all, Tom. Thank you.
14:58:38 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : leaves us with little choice!!
15:00:02 From Susan Irwin : I congratulate the AHS board for taking the very difficult step to end the MOUs. I'm sure that AHS would have rather kept them in place. It is always easier to kick action down the road. Recognizing that action is needed and being willing to take it is not an easy task. Unfortunately action was required at this time.
15:00:45 From Arizona Historical Society : Thank you, Susan.
15:05:48 From Arizona Historical Society : WOW! 30 years, John. Thank you for three decades of service. We owe you a debt of gratitude.
15:05:49 From Thomas Foster, State Board Member, Eastern Chapter : Never enough John!!
15:05:59 From David Turpie : Thanks for your service, John!
15:06:22 From Robert Ballard, State Board Member, Mohave County : Thanks for your service at AHS John!
15:06:54 From Kelly Corsette : Thank you, John Lacy - you will be missed!

Terminate MOU regarding Downtown History Museum with City of Tucson.

Motion to terminate MOU regarding Downtown History Museum with Wells Fargo by Snitzer.

Seconded by Greg Scott

Voice vote:

Ballard - yes
Bauer - yes
Brooks - yes
Bryson - yes
Byron - yes
Corsette - yes
Coy - yes

Foster - yes
Gwynn - yes
Holnback - yes
Lacy - yes
Rose - yes
Scott - yes
Snitzer - yes
Wade - yes
Whitaker - yes

Unanimously passed with a yes vote.

Terminate MOU regarding Fort Lowell Museum at Fort Lowell Park with City of Tucson.

Call to the public for Ft Lowell

Motion to terminate MOU regarding Fort Lowell Museum at Fort Lowell Park with City of Tucson by Snitzer

Seconded by Tom Rose

Voice vote:

Ballard - yes
Bauer - yes
Brooks - yes
Bryson - yes
Byron - yes
Corsette - yes
Coy - yes
Foster - yes
Gwynn - yes
Holnback - yes
Lacy - No
Rose - yes
Scott - yes
Snitzer - yes
Wade - yes
Whitaker - yes

Passes with 15 yes, 1 no

Terminate operation of Riordan Mansion State Park with State Parks, exercising the 30-day termination clause in the existing MOU.

Call to the public regarding Riordan Mansion

Motion to terminate operation of Riordan Mansion State Park with State Parks, exercising the 30-day termination clause in the existing MOU by Tom Rose.

Seconded by Voie Coy

Voice vote

Ballard - yes
Bauer - yes
Brooks - yes
Bryson - yes

Byron - yes
Corsette - yes
Coy - yes
Foster - yes
Gwynn - yes
Holnback - yes
Lacy - yes
Rose - yes
Scott - yes
Snitzer - yes
Wade - yes
Whitaker - yes

Motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports

Tom Rose: Properties and Building Committee Report. He looks forward to working with Bauer and Holnback on the committee. Addition to the list provided. Received ok from ADOA to continue work on the electrical work with the barn at Pioneer historic site.

Janice Bryson, Community Outreach Committee Report and action to approve grants as follows:
Committee recommends awarding \$35,434.82 in small grants to 29 Certified Historical Institutions.

Voice vote, unanimously approved.

Whitaker asked a question about “affiliate” listing in back of the Journal of Arizona History. Burns responded that affiliates became institutional members, and that he would ensure they are listed in the Journal in addition to the Certified Historical Institutions.

Greg Scott - Collections, Library & Archives Committee Report – Committee has not met since the last board meeting; anticipate meeting prior to January.

John Lacy - Publications Committee Report – Committee has not met since the last board meeting. Turpie reported having received some publication submissions that had been addressed. Still waiting to hear from UA Press about the possibility of a partnership. UA Press has the staff and resources that AHS is lacking. Lacy mentioned a publication submission he had made regarding mining history in AZ; acknowledge potential for conflict of interest and stated no expectation of any compensation to him; proceeds to AHS.

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

John Lacy – Announced that after 30 years on the board this is his last year, and consents to continue to participate in the Publications Committee.

2020-2021 AHS Board meetings:

January 8, 2021 – Tempe and virtual

February 19, 2021 – Location to be determined

April 16, 2021 – Location to be determined

June 18, 2021 – Location to be determined

August 20, 2021 – Location to be determined
October 15, 2021 – Location to be determined
December 17, 2021 – Location to be determined

2020-2021 AHS Executive Committee meetings:

Monday, November 16, 2020
Monday, January 18, 2021
Monday, February 15, 2021
Monday, March 15, 2021
Monday, April 19, 2021
Monday, May 17, 2021
Monday, June 21, 2021

Adjournment at 3:06 pm

Dated this 27th day of October, 2020

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.