

**Arizona Historical Society
Southern Arizona Chapter Board Meeting
June 9, 2021**

Present: Bill Cavaliere, Yvonne Clay, Brook Grobosky, Craig McEwan, Jim Sell, and Bob Vint

Absent: Mark O'Hare, Ralph Wong

Staff Present: Bill Ponder (Chief Administrative Officer) and Kim Bittrich (Vice President of Finance and Operations)

Guests Present: Linda Head and Vicki Schwager

Call to Order

President Craig McEwan called the meeting to order at 2:23 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum declared.

Approval of Board Minutes

The minutes of the May 3, 2021, Chapter Board Meeting was unanimously approved after a motion from Jim Sell and second by Brook Grobosky.

USAM 21161 Fund Report

Kim Bittrich gave a report on the funds. Kim stated that \$29,500.00 is in the account. However, there are still some items that have not been paid.

Chief Administrative Officer Report

Bill Ponder stated that the Facilities Team went through the Sosa-Carrillo House to look at the condition of the building. Their assessment was that the damages to the building are the result of normal wear and tear and not anything of an extreme nature. He stated that the Museum is still in the Phase 2 of the reopening plan hoping to move to Phase 3. He stated further that the Museum will be taking facility rental requests for October.

Report of the Mediation between AHS and Chapter

Craig McEwan read from the report John Lacy created regarding the mediation conducted by John Lacy between SAC of AHS and AHS staff.

Old Business

A. First order of business was discussion and action, if any, of financing architect's plans for AHM courtyard walkway refurbishment. Bob Vint provided information on this topic since he was the author of the preliminary plans. Bill Ponder stated that since the courtyard is above the basement, it would be necessary to have it

inspected by a structural engineer. It also may not be appropriate for social functions depending on the assessment of its integrity to safely hold a significant number of people. When asked if AHS intended to continue to be located in this facility, he stated that we do have 30 years more on our lease, but didn't believe that the U. of A. would renew that lease. Bob Vint suggested that we might want to move forward to have the Museum placed on the National Historic Register because of its design by Josiah Joesler. Mr. Ponder stated that, as an advisory Board, it is not within our scope to move forward with a plan to apply for National Historic Registry status. Bob Vint also mentioned the façade of the Museum as historic as well. Mr. Ponder stated that the façade of the Museum which is from the territory's first cathedral is part of the AHS collection and could not be included as part of the application for Historic Registry status. Jim Sell and Craig McEwan stated that our Board, would, of course, make this request of Staff or AHS Board if such a plan was possible. It was decided to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.

B. The second order of business was discussion and action, if any, on other funding for the Tucson History Museum or different AHS projects. President McEwan asked if we wanted to continue with the plans for AHS projects or designate the balance of our funds on the architectural design of the courtyard for safety and access. Yvonne Clay moved that we spend our funds on the architectural plans for the courtyard. Craig McEwan seconded that motion. Mr. Ponder stated that the membership funds must be spent by June 30, 2021 or they will go in to the general fund. He did not believe that all of what needed to be done could be done by June 30, 2021. Bob Vint, who is an architect working on several projects in southern Arizona, stated that the needed work to evaluate and plan could be done within the next two and a half weeks. He offered a name of a company he was sure could do it because they employ engineers and landscape architects. Mr. Ponder stated that this could not be accomplished within the required time because of the State purchasing process. Jim Sell suggested that we ask AHS to have that money set aside for the planning and renovation of the courtyard. Craig McEwan asked Mr. Ponder "what are the odds that AHS will honor that request?" He stated that it is as likely as any other project. Bob Vint moved that the Board amend the motion to state, "The remaining membership funds go forward to pay for civil engineering assessment and design of the courtyard and the remainder of our funds be carried over with a recommendation to AHS [to] amend if necessary and carryout the project to completion rendering the courtyard safe and accessible for visitors." Craig McEwan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

C. Next was discussion and action, if any, on the appointment of Jim Sell to the State AHS Board. Craig McEwan reported on a phone call he made to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions. On behalf of the Governor, Ms. Lepore again asked for more than one name for SAC representative on the AHS State Board. Jim Sell nominated Craig McEwan after Craig offered to submit his application. Bill Cavaliere seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Craig nominated Linda Head to be an applicant to represent the Chapter. Yvonne seconded the motion, and it also passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Discussion and action, if any, with May 21, 2021, Ombudsman Complaint. Craig reported on the progress and activities revolving around the Chapter's complaint to the Ombudsman's office. He stated that he was in communication with that office. He will report back as things progress. He stated that he did get a call from Board President Linda Whitaker. She stated that the complaint letter will not make a difference.

B. Discussion and action, if any, on additional AHS spending projects that need brought to the SAC's attention, such as the scheduling and funding of a reception for people who donated money toward personalized bricks at the Otero Porch. President McEwan stated that since we had previously allocated the remainder of our funds to the courtyard there was no further need for this item.

C. Discussion and action, if any, on search for new members for SAC Board. McEwan has contact information for three potential members from the Tucson area. He stated that he had been given the names of three potential Board members who would bring needed expertise and experience to the Board.

Call to the Public

Linda Head asked for the names of the three potential Board members. McEwan stated that he did not have access to those names at the moment. Yvonne Clay directed a question to Bill Ponder regarding the Chapter's request to set aside the funds to be used for the courtyard project. Vicki Schwager stated that it would be important to the Chapter Board to know about overtures by the U. of A. regarding the Museum property.

Announcements

President McEwan announced the next Chapter Board meeting will be scheduled for June 29, 2021.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig McEwan



Craig McEwan, President





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May 19, 2021

E-mail Only

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Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

Arizona Historical Society

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RE: Mediation, Southern Arizona Chapter 1107 Funds

Dear Craig and Bill:

I appreciate your willingness to sit down with me to see if common ground can be found in the disagreement between the Southern Arizona Chapter Board and the administration of the Arizona Historical Society regarding the expenditure of the Chapter's 1107 funds. I also appreciate the candor you both provided to me of the background of the disagreements.

As I explained, as a mediator, I have no authority to dictate a result but am here strictly to offer suggestions on navigating a path forward. To this end, I understand that the ability to expend the approximately \$30,000 in 1107 funds by the deadline may be a bit problematic but I do believe that any agreement between the parties can be used to earmark any of the remaining 1107 funds that may become part of the general funds of the Society.

Accordingly, my suggestions are as follows:

As soon as possible, a complete redo of the patio at the museum would be undertaken. The Otero Patio (I don't know what it is called – but for our purposes we know what this is). The footing in the patio has always been recognized as an accident ready to happen. The suggestion is to immediately engaging an engineering firm to determine what it would take to level the patio and then complete a brick (or other suitable) floor. The 1107 funds would be allocated as far as they would go to this project. Obviously, if the funds were insufficient, the project could be scaled back, but the critical element would be to complete a safe footpath through the patio.

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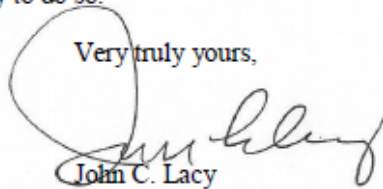
The signage for the patio is apparently in the budget and will not need additional funding from the Chapter. This should be completed as soon as possible.

It is recognized that some cracks in the external stucco on the Sosa-Carrillo House are badly in need of repair. The substantial grant in the works but may not arrive in time to undertake any temporary repairs to protect the adobe before the monsoon season. Accordingly, an immediate review should be undertaken by the Society and, if reasonably determined to be critical, a short-term fix would be implemented.

The line of communication for the Chapter Board is between Mr. McEwan (or the president of the Chapter) and Mr. Ponder.

As I indicated above, these suggestions are not a binding decision and are subject to agreement by the Chapter Board and the Administration. If I can be of further assistance in furthering communication, I am happy to do so.

Very truly yours,



John C. Lacy

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