

**Minutes of Public Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society
Friday, September 24, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** – President Linda Whitaker.

Meeting called to order at 11:01 a.m.

2. **Roll Call** – Recording Secretary – James Burns (for Bruce Gwynn)

Board members present: Valerie Welsh-Tahbo, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Linda Whitaker, Tom Foster, Janice Bryson, Ileen Snoddy, Jim Snitzer, Kelly Corsette, Bruce Gwynn, Desirae Barquin, DeNise Bauer, Wynne Brown, Deborah Bateman, Richard Powers, Greg Scott, Sharon Holnback, Colleen Byron

Board members absent: Robert Ballard, Vance Bryce, Sherry Rampy

Staff present: James Burns, Mel Davis, Bill Ponder, Rebekah Tabah-Percival, Marilyn Murphy, Tawn Downs, Eric Gonzales, Kim Bittrich.

Members of the public present: Brenda Jackson, Anita Brubaker, Craig McEwan.

3. **Discussion and action**, if any, to **approve the draft Minutes** of the August 20, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

Gwynn moved to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2021 board meeting as submitted; Bateman seconded; all present voted in favor of approving the minutes.

4. **Call to the Public** – 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.

Mr. McEwan expressed his wish to speak about two agenda item – 5 and 6.

5. **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. Brief summary of ceremony in Tucson regarding the final legal and physical transfer of the Caborca baptismal font to INAH officials from Mexico City and Hermosillo. - Whitaker and Scott

Whitaker described the Mexican delegation, setting for final signatures at the Mexican Consulate, and the rarity of meeting international professional colleagues. Scott reported on the historic significance of the baptismal font to the Caborca community, his presentation on

Father Kino, and the two-day ceremony honoring its return. The event was very positive and reflected well on AHS.

Craig McEwan was recognized by Whitaker to state his remarks/concerns/questions regarding the font. Mr. McEwan questioned the font's provenance, the Board's role in the decision for the loan and wanted to know what AHS "got in return."

Ponder responded that the baptismal font is on a long-term, annually renewable loan. He summarized the 10-year timeline of the process. The board authorized Burns to sign the agreement in an Executive Committee meeting in November 2019. The final documents were witnessed and signed August 2021.

Note: At this point during the meeting it was discovered that the meeting was not being recorded as previously thought. The recording, referenced later in the minutes, picks up roughly at the beginning of the discussion about agenda item #6.

6. Approval for appointment of interim executive director:

Whitaker recognized McEwan, who requested to speak on this appointment. He opposed the appointment and delivered a prepared message to the Board of Directors regarding the Governor's Office, the board appointment process, his objections to a blog post from 2020 relating to vandalism to some AHS sculptures, and disapproval of the staff and board's handling of the Sunset Review relating to chapter board funds. Full text can be found in the audio link on the AHS website.

<https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AHS-Board-Meeting-September-24-2021.1mp3.mp3>

Whitaker called the question to approve Bill Ponder to manage daily operations as Interim Executive Director effective August 21, 2021 - a temporary assignment not to exceed six months. Approved unanimously by a vote of all board members present.

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

None

2021 AHS Board meetings:

October 15, 2021 – Virtual
December 17, 2021 – Virtual

2021 AHS Executive Committee meetings:

Monday, September 27, 2021- Virtual
Monday, October 25, 2021 - Virtual
Monday, November 22, 2021 - Virtual
Monday, December 27, 2021 - (tentative)

Adjournment

Dated this 24th day of September 2021

Arizona Historical Society

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda A. Whitaker".

Linda Whitaker, Board President

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