

Minutes of Public Meeting
Executive Committee
Board of Directors
Arizona Historical Society
November 9, 2021

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

1. Call to Order –Meeting called to order at 12:05 by Whitaker

2. Roll Call – Bruce Gwynn

Committee members present: Robert Ballard, Deborah Bateman, Tom Foster, Bruce Gwynn, Jim Snitzer, Ileen Snoddy, Linda Whitaker

Committee members absent: Desirae Barquin, DeNise Bauer, Kelly Corsette

Staff present: Tawn Downs, Bill Ponder

3. Minutes - Discussion and action to approve the draft minutes of the September 27, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Ballard moved to approve; Gwynn seconded; approved as submitted.

4. Call to the Public – No members of the public present.

5. Board Appointments – Stephen S. Chapman, replaces Janice Bryson At-Large. Boards and Commissions: expect reappointments and new appointments “soon.”

6. Current Events – Tempe and Tucson (local media news) – Ponder

Tempe – Bill Ponder reported news coverage related to a publication by a student based on research using the KKK Collection. This came to the attention of the Tempe City Council who were (unpleasantly) surprised by the Tempe schools and streets named after KKK members. They are now considering renaming them. Was this collection kept “hidden?” No. it’s been fully accessible to the public for many years and on the AHS Library and Archives public database <https://arizonahistoricalociety.org/research/library-archives/>. (See Tempe, Small Manuscripts Collection, scroll to #62) The Journal also published an article on the KKK (See THE KU KLUX KLAN IN ARIZONA, 1921-1925 by Sue Wilson Abbey The Journal of Arizona History, Vol. 14, No. 1 (Spring 1973), pp. 10-30)

Tucson – Bill Ponder reported on a recurring incident involving a disruptive visitor who came to the Arizona History Museum on two consecutive days, banging on exhibits and using props to threaten staff. TPD was called. The man was escorted off the property. No one was injured. Staff safety was reviewed and options discussed. Tucson will now have an emergency button at the front desk and in the library. It was suggested that staff safety

training also be included. Tucson phones, previously linked through Tempe, now have been rerouted for direct calls to Tucson police/ emergency services.

7. Staffing updates and interim hiring plan

Bill Ponder provided context for the cyclical nature of staff turnover. In the past 25 years, he has seen three cycles of staff resignations of 10 or more resulting in 10 or more new hires. There are 11 AHS positions open reflecting a national trend of employees taking advantage of vacancies, higher pay and promotions elsewhere. AHS openings include: 2 Flagstaff positions, 2 Yuma positions, Preparator, Grants Writer, Communications/Social media, National History Day Coordinator, Tucson Registrar, Facilities Manager, Development Director, and Administrative Assistant. Candidates for several positions have applied. We are awaiting David Breeckner's arrival to determine filling certain key positions.

Basic services will be covered in the interim. Flagstaff Pioneer Museum will be closed until additional staff is hired. The remaining staff member is willing to monitor the buildings, collections and surrounding property. She will be in close contact with AHS staff throughout the day.

8. Proposed Board Priorities for 2022 - Whitaker

The following Board tasks/goals were proposed.

- a. Assist/support onboarding of David Breeckner
- b. Comply with remaining 2013 Sunset Review Recommendations (contracts with support groups, approval of Chapter roles language; Flagstaff collections storage) and prepare for board/staff participation in Sunset Review and onsite visit. Note that Collections will be a focus.
- c. Track Collections management via Director and committee reports
- d. Facilitate Strategic Planning with David Breeckner and Staff (ready to submit plan for Sunset Review). Bateman noted that much pre-work will be required to insure efficiency and relevancy of the plan.
- e. Update/Edit Board Bylaws & Policies for Sunset Review
- f. Collaborate with organizational structure of Capital Campaign and Friends of AHS, Inc. Note: Friends of AHS, Inc. will be a Board agenda item for each meeting to insure reporting updates and evidence of Board fundraising actions for Sunset Audit. Bateman stated the goal is to create a relationship with AHS much like the universities with their foundations.
- g. Promote Board development and maintenance (What do you/we need?)
- h. Evaluate committee structure

Whitaker encouraged committee members to send her any comments, edits, or add other achievable goals so these can be presented to the full Board on January 28, 2022.

10. Proposed Meeting Dates for Board and Executive Committee for 2022

***Note end of year exceptions**

Chairs determine meeting schedules for Finance, Governance, Collections, Buildings & Properties, Outreach

2022 Board Meetings: last Friday, every other month, noon

January 28,2022 virtual
March 25,2022 in person, Tempe
May 27,2022 virtual
July 29,2022 in person, Flagstaff

Annual and Board Meeting September 30,2022 virtual

*** Final Board meeting November 18, 2022, third Friday at noon**

2022 Executive Committee Meetings: last Monday every month at noon

Virtual until further notice

January 24, 2022
February 21, 2022
March 21, 2022
April 25, 2022
May 23, 2022
June 20, 2022
July 25, 2022
August 22, 2022
September 26, 2022
October 24, 2022
November 28, 2022
December 19, 2022

11. Announcements – Robert Ballard reported on delivering an AHS grant award of \$800 to the Lake Havasu Historical Society on November 1 but did not receive formal acknowledgement. After making several inquiries and finally reaching the Board President, he learned that the museum director (fairly new from San Diego) was arrested for theft at her previous position. AHS will see if the check has been cashed.

Submitted this 11th Day of November 2021



Linda Whitaker, Board President

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