

**Minutes of Public Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society
Friday, January 28, 2022**

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

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

2. Roll Call – by Whitaker

Board members present: Robert Ballard, Desirae Barquin, Deborah Bateman, DeNise Bauer, Wynne Brown (left at 1:29 pm), Colleen Bryon, Stephen Chapman, Kelly Corsette, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Tom Foster, Bruce Gwynn, Sharon Holnback, Richard Powers, Sherry Rampy, Jim Snitzer, Ileen Snoddy, Lina Whitaker.

Absent: Vance Bryce, Greg Scott, Valerie Welsh-Tahbo

Staff present: David Breeckner, Tawn Downs, Rebekah Tabah, David Turpie, Nate Samoriski, David Turpie

Guests: Richard Tollefson, Cheryl House from Phoenix Philanthropy

Members of the Public: Marilyn Hammerstrom, Gwen Groth, Susan Dale, Becky Jackson, Mark Romo, Charlotte Madden, Pat Loven, Elaine Scruggs, Cathy Shumard, Mary Lou Morrow, Duffie Westheimer, Christine Hackett, Connie Robertson.

3. Discussion and action to **approve the draft Minutes** of the October 15, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Rampy moved to approve, Brown seconded. Unanimously approved as submitted.

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.

Non-agenda Item: Gwen Groth eager to hear from Director Breeckner and hoped that the Pioneer Museum would open soon. No members of public offered to speak on an agenda item.

5. Summary of Current Events – Brief summary of current events, if any, 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.
None.

6. Friends of AHS, Inc. (FAHS) Report - Bateman, Breeckner – Moved from Item #10 to #6.

Introduction by Bateman.

Presentation by Phoenix Philanthropic Group, Richard Powers

Conclusion

AHS is not prepared, resourced, nor positioned at present to raise \$100 million. AHS and Friends moving forward to develop recommended infrastructure to launch a capital campaign.

Recommendations

- Promote a comprehensive bold vision and plan for AHS
- Implement multi-year fundraising plan with diverse funding sources/strategies
- Add staff and capacity to manage ongoing fundraising and support campaign
- Build fundraising infrastructure, including policies, procedures, best practices
- Develop robust, long-term relationships with qualified, high-potential prospect and donor base
- Recruit well-connected volunteers throughout Arizona

Opportunities

- Implement recommendations
- Deploy executive director, campaign chair, and other leaders in strategic engagement of key stakeholders, influencers, prospects
- Consider smaller goal(s) with targeted, phased campaigns for specific projects or in geographic areas where AHS is most well-known
- Continue to recruit strong fundraising volunteers as Friends
- Seek early wins, such as an aspirational lead gift

Bateman: Friends is working on the recommendations. Looking at a year of preparation and readiness.

Breeckner: Aligned with Phoenix Philanthropy and Bateman's comments. Aligns with plan to create a new strategic plan. Also need to focus on smaller goals/gifts.

Bateman: Friends has approved new bylaws, putting policies and procedures in place. We are currently a volunteer organization. We need a paid staff to support the Friends organization. Bateman working on action plan as an outcome from the Phoenix Philanthropy report.

Whitaker: Going forward we need assurance that a statewide campaign will benefit any/all regions within AHS. Can you speak to the statewide coverage for this campaign?

Breeckner: To carry this forward, we need to do much like we did when we reorganized from geographic alignment to an interconnected statewide organization. We need to do our outreach in the same manner, so that all constituents across the state see the benefits. First steps this year is listening, collaborating across the state.

Bateman: We are sensitive to the needs of the local communities and acknowledge their desire for to feel that their area is being supported. A statewide campaign doesn't mean the diminished impact of the local chapters/support groups. In fact, this capital campaign (we have potential donors beyond the state borders) can have more impact and benefits for the local communities.

Snoddy: Question about Development Director and their role with the capital campaign. Due to State policy restricting state personnel from working on support group activities. How will this position work with the Friends on the Capital campaign?

Bateman/Breeckner: We aren't prepared to respond to this yet. We are still working out the details of this position. Second question is how does one join the Friends board or find information? Bateman: That is part of what Friends is working on. We have been focused on clean up and identifying a plan for moving forward.

7. Executive Director- Introduction of Dr. David Breeckner - Summary of activities, goals, initiatives, opportunities. – Breeckner

Provided a written report to the board this morning, with narratives from individual departments. In broad overview, the last 2 months have focused on where we are as an organization and my own growth in my role here. A period of review and clarification. Look outward to draw in and engage new audiences.

Re Flagstaff contingent, we know you are interested in when Pioneer will reopen. Recognized Mel Davis and her team re Facilities and Volunteer program. New staff member hired. With two individuals on board, we should be ready to reopen soon.

Reviewed open positions. Rebuilding our capacity and reorganizing to maximize the professional staff and skills we have. Grant writer, Dev. Director, V.P. Coordinator & Admin Asst will report directly thru ED.

Executive Administrative Assistant will be the liaison to support groups, dedicated to building and maintaining those relationships.

We lack data on guest experiences. What exhibits did they like, where did they spend the most time/least time, where did they come from, how did they find out about us?

Fundraising – Grants Coordinator still open, but we did submit a grant to fund a speaker series. Received several grants in the past few months, included \$222K from SVOG Covid relief funding.

Transformation of Orientation Theater by 48 Arizona Women with cutting edge technology, both in configuration of space and the A/V technology. Will transform the way we engage and communicate with our stakeholders across the state.

Progress in agreements with support groups. Friends and Historical League are signed. Very close to completing agreement with Yuma County Historical Society. Conversations beginning anew with other support groups.

Partnerships: Covid event at AHC on March 7. Will display a covid quilt and display objects related to health services. Offering free admission to healthcare workers. Looking to leverage relationships with ASU beyond Journal of the Plague year. Looking at rapid collection of individual technology through online means.

Strategic planning – Big focus this year. Needs to be on developing relationships in the community. Who have we worked with in the past and renew those relationships. Who have we left out? Who do

we need to work with? What does AHS need to be as a 21st century organization? What role do the Chapters play? We'll talk about this later in the meeting. Emphasizing that we are a statewide group.

Breeckner turned over reporting to each V.P. to provide an overview of their respective areas. See written report as part of board packet.

Downs: Provided update on Finance; Oct financials complete, and Nov in review. Should be able to get back on schedule in February. Still short staffed – Communication Manager still open, Graphic Designer's last day is today, and Grant Writer position still open. Thanked Library and Archives staff, and other AHS personnel who have been handling the social media posts in the absence of the Marketing Manager. A number of grants came in during Nov/Dec, including \$222K in SVOG funds, as well as another \$70K for various projects. See detail in the board report.

Turpie: Visiting researcher scholarship fund. Reinvigorated program and renamed to Research Fellowship program. Received 20 applications, awarded 9 fellowships. Most are graduate students.

Great media coverage on Migrant Quilts. NHD competitions will be entirely virtual in 2022 for statewide and national. Some regional competitions will be in person, but on a limited basis.

Tabah: Collection Manager, Trish Norman left, but Nate Samoriski promoted to Manager position. Archives working hard to keep Archives open. Helping with Social Media in absence of Communications Manager. Recently finally able to transfer 300 boxes of mining records moved to AHC from former Mining museum (U of A) Formed partnership with Black History department of ASU. Highlight – micrographics department is now fully off the ground and operational and have received a \$20,000 payment from Secretary of State's office. Have numerous new orders – more revenue. Collections side, cleaning house, cleaning up and organizing records.

Breeckner: Highlighted 2 new areas. Rewrote our COVID protocols and policy.

8. Sunset Review and Performance Audit - Update and discussion regarding status of sunset review tracking document (revised Chapter roles, status of contracts with support groups, collections management). Whitaker, Breeckner

See Sunset Audit Tracking document in board packet. There are 3 major outstanding items from the 2013 audit: Collections care and access; contracts with interested support groups; revised Chapter roles.

9. AHS Board Health – Whitaker. Update on appointments, committees. Introduction of Stephen Chapman He will be joining the Outreach Committee. There are two prospective Board applicants – one from Coconino County and one from Greenlee County - Whitaker

10. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – Whitaker
Rio Nuevo has submitted a proposal to purchase the Sosa Carrillo House. This is an ongoing discussion that includes AHS, Rio Nuevo and the current tenants.
- b. Finance - Snitzer (if any)
Snitzer reviewed the one-page high level finance document. No questions.

c. Collections – Scott, Tabah-Percival

Action Item: Deaccession of props/miscellaneous items from the Bayless Collection that have no connection to Arizona history

Move to approve deaccession recommendations as presented.

Collection committee met last week. Focus is addressing biggest pain point in Tempe, the Bayless collection. Bayless collections contains more than 15,000 objects. Original intent was to pare down collection to only include AZ provenance items. Nate, Collections Manager has been meticulously reviewing collection. Has brought forward recommendation to deaccession 1074 objects. The Collection Committee recommends deaccessioning of these 1074 objects – mostly knick-knack items. (Equivalent to 1000 linear feet of storage space.)

Move to deaccession by Gwynn. Second by Powers.

Snitzer asked if we can deaccession with a caveat if a board member wants to reconsider at a later date, they can. General response: No. We must trust professional staff and best practices. If the materials in question do not relate to Arizona History, they should not be retained. Deaccession protocols will be observed.

Discussion. Breeckner reminded board that in light of sunset audit findings, we have to get the collections in order, and that means we need to deaccession items that are not relevant.

Call for vote. Passed unanimously.

d. Community Outreach – Foster

Action Item: Certification of new historical organizations for Certified Historical Institution program.

Reported that all but six of the current Certified partners have applied for renewal. An extension has been granted to the six who did not renew, as several had extenuating circumstances. Deadline extended to February 14.

Committee recommends approval of two new Certified members: Western Spirit: Scottsdale Museum of the West and Arcosanti Foundation.

Move to approve Outreach Committee recommendations for Certification by Byron, seconded by Holnback. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Governance Committee Report – Corsette

Action Item: Move to un-table Chapter roles language from Board meeting of 8-20-21. Move to replace previous AHS Policy #5 Chapters with updates and new language

regarding Chapter roles.

Motion to un-table: Gwyn moved. Elliott-Nelson seconded. Call for vote: Approved unanimously.

Discussion: Refer to policy documents that was distributed with board packet. These materials are included with the agenda on the AHS website. Propose replacing the language in existing policy with revised language. Edits reflect updates on previous Board actions and current Boards and Commissions protocols.

Motion to accept recommended changes by Gwynn, seconded by Bryon. Call for vote. Motion passed unanimously.

- f. Properties and Buildings – Bauer
Committee hasn't met recently. Waiting to meet Doug Helber, new Facilities Manager.

11. Announcements and other matters for consideration in future board or committee meetings. Redondo Days next weekend, Feb. 5. Fundraiser for Sanguinetti House

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next AHS Board Meetings (noon)

March 25, 2022

May 27, 2022

July 29, 2022

Annual and Board Meeting September 30, 2022

* November 18, 2022, third Friday at noon

Next AHS Executive Committee Meetings (noon)

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 (tentative)**

Adjournment: Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Note: This meeting has been recorded and posted on YouTube. It is available upon request. To request access, complete the Media Information Request form found on the Arizona Historical Society [website](#).

Submitted this 30 day of January 2022

Arizona Historical Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda A. Whitaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Linda Whitaker, Board President

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