

**DRAFT - Meeting Minutes of
the Executive Committee of the
Board of Directors of the
Arizona Historical Society**

May 20, 2024

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

Minutes

1. **Call to Order** – By President Linda Elliott-Nelson at 12:00pm
2. **Roll Call** – By Linda Elliott-Nelson
 - a. Present – Robert Ballard, DeNise Bauer, Linda Elliott-Nelson, Jim Snitzer, Linda Whitaker, Bruce Gwynn, Deborah Bateman, Kelly Corsette
 - b. Absent – Tom Foster, Desirae Barquin
 - c. Staff – David Breeckner, Rebekah Tabah-Percival, Vince Bradley, Jace Dostal, Salessia McGowan, Sebastian Alt, Rachael O'Hara, Cody Taylor, Marianna Touloumes, Kristen Rex
3. **Minutes** – the minutes from April 29, 2024 were approved as read. (Linda Whitaker, Bruce Gwynn)
4. **Call to the Public** – Linda Elliott-Nelson
 - a. No response.
5. **Finance Committee** – Linda Whitaker shared that there is no new significant news within the Finance Committee. The committee knows what will be reduced by the state. More information will be forthcoming in June.

Vince Bradley shared that each week they know a better approximation of numbers in the budget. They will be able to present more information at the AHS full board meeting on May 31st. The preparations for the 2026 budget will start soon.
6. **Board Item** – AHS Full Board Meeting on May 31, 2024. Linda Elliott-Nelson mentioned that that she will be in Tempe, Arizona, on May 31st and the full board meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting (both in-person and on zoom). There will be members of the Historical League present so that the AHS Board can thank them for their generous donation of the cookbooks throughout the state. Carlos Ramos, the Director of Boards and Commissions, will be present to update the AHS Board on processes in his area. Linda Elliott-Nelson asked, since this is a meeting at noon, if it would be appropriate to just bring snacks since the lunch

would need to be paid for through individual donations. Deborah Bateman shared that it would be appropriate to announce to guests that this will be a brown bag lunch. Linda Whitaker agreed that in the past, meals needed to be paid for by donors and that a brown bag lunch would be appropriate. Linda Whitaker also asked if it is possible that this meeting would take a longer time. Linda Elliott-Nelson answered that it should be no longer than two hours as scheduled; however, since there will be questions for Boards and Commissions, the timeframe will be dependent on how many questions are asked.

7. Director's Update

- a. **Hiring Status:** David Breeckner shared that there have been no major changes in the hiring status. AHS has requested more information on how to pursue exemptions to this ruling. Any exemptions must be justified. The current hiring cap is at 36 personnel. If there is a vacancy within the 36-position cap, AHS can pursue a position. AHS staff have discussed which areas are a high priority. Currently, Facilities Rental Coordinator and Archivist – Tucson positions are posted. AHS is requesting five positions through the exemption process and must show that funds are available and the necessity for these positions as they align with the agency's governing statutes.
- b. **Annual Meeting** – The AHS Board voted to hold the annual meeting on October 18, 2024, in Flagstaff. It is assumed there will be around 200 participants. AHS is looking for venues, which are available on other dates, but not October 18th. There is no budget for the annual meeting and we would need to look for sponsorships and donations for the annual meeting. Linda Elliott-Nelson asked about the possibility of moving the date since Flagstaff venues that can fit 200 participants do not appear to be available on October 18th. David said that since this was an AHS Board vote, the Board could amend its motion to be “on or around the October 18th date”. This can be discussed at the May 31, 2024, full board meeting. There will be a limited staff attendance since there are not funds to cover travel and lodging expenses for many AHS staff.
- c. **Prescott Historical Society Meeting (5/6/24)** – AHS' collections, archives, development, and finance teams hosted representatives from Prescott Historical Society at the Arizona Heritage Center and had productive discussions as peer state agencies.
- d. **Update: State Parks Heritage Grant** – Sebastian Alt shared that this grant proposal had been submitted with matching funds from AHS. We should know by the first week in June more about the next level of the grant.

David Breeckner shared some details of the grant. It is a State Parks Heritage

grant to cover the care and upkeep of historical sites. The grant is requesting \$300,000 with matching funds of \$200,000 from AHS for a total of \$500,000. The focus is on the roof. This is a competitive grant. The funds match does not detract from the annual budget.

- e. **Update: Sunset Review** – David Breeckner shared that there have not been major updates on HB2613 nor HB2632. HB2632 reduces the sunset review from 8 years to 2 years and has cleared the Senate Committee and the Senate and is currently at the House level. HB2613 was introduced by Rep. Tim Dunn, which splits the sunset review into individual bills. This bill represents only AHS and the Prescott Historical Society for an 8-year sunset review. There has been no motion on these in the past two months. Update 5/22/24: AHS has been advised that HB2613 will not be considered at this time; AHS is directing all interested parties to contact House Speaker Toma and Senate President Petersen to express any concerns on the truncated 2-year recommendation embodied in HB2632.

- 8. **Flagstaff Discussion Group** – Kelly Corsette shared that this discussion group is proceeding with stakeholder interviews with the focus on possible solutions to the Pioneer Museum situation. There is an effort underway by Coconino County to also look at possible solutions. Coconino County will have a meeting next week from a direction from one of the Coconino County supervisors who wanted to move forward with discussing the Pioneer Museum. The members of this discussion group should have something available by the time of the annual meeting. The discussion group has an interview guide and a long list of people to interview. Deborah Bateman asked if the people on the interview list are those who were mentioned at the previous AHS Board meeting. Kelly said that including those people previously mentioned would be a good idea..

Linda Elliott-Nelson thanked the discussion group members – Kelly Corsette, Desirae Barquin, Bruce Gwynn and Jim Snitzer – for the extra time and effort they are spending on this.

- 9. **Announcements** – no announcements

- 10. **Adjournment** – Linda Elliott-Nelson adjourned the meeting at 12:33 pm. (Robert Ballard, Deborah Bateman)

Dated this 20th day of May, 2024.

Arizona Historical Society

Linda Elliott-Nelson

Linda Elliott-Nelson, 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.

Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings

Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Please use the following link as a hyperlink to solicit online registrations. It has been set up to work (individually) for all Executive Committee meetings in 2024.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlc-2hqDIsG9QarPDKi819C7uUohXboP9Q>

All meetings are hosted and live-streamed via Zoom.

June 24, 2024; July 22, 2024; August 26, 2024; September 23, 2024;
October 28, 2024; November 25, 2024; December 30, 2024 (to be discussed)

Upcoming State Board Meetings

Noon and Virtual unless announced otherwise

Please use the following link as a hyperlink to solicit online registrations. It has been set up to work (individually) for all State Board meetings in 2024.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-2opj4gHNEcUWuowtZ2nJI5HaZEciYX>

All meetings are hosted are live-streamed via Zoom.

May 31, 2024; July 26, 2024; September 27, 2024; December 6, 2024